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AFGHANISTAN

RUSSIANS ISOLATE KARMAL AFTER HE MEETS WITH MUJAHIDIN LEADERS

Lahore MASHRIQ in Urdu 30 Aug 80 p 8

[Text] Tehran, 29 August--Newspapers in Tehran report that Afghan security police and guards posted at the presidential palace of Babrak Karmal, the puppet president of Afghanistan, have been removed and replaced with Soviet personnel. Soviet officials have also instructed Babrak Karmal not to leave the palace without their knowledge. Moreover, he should avoid making contact with anyone due to possible danger to his life.

All telephone lines, except the one that links Karmal directly with the Soviet ambassador to Kabul and with Moscow, have been disconnected. Accordingly, Karmal cannot make contact with anyone else either inside or outside the country.

According to these newspapers, Babrak Karmal [met] with some of the leaders of the mujahidin. In this meeting, he advised them to lay down their weapons and live in peace. The leaders, who refused to lend their support to Babrak Karmal, were arrested by Soviet officers as they were about to leave the palace, but were released when Babrak Karmal intervened on their behalf.

Ironically, as a result of this incident, the Soviet commander took immediate action against Babrak Karmal himself by isolating him. Karmal was banned from getting in touch with anyone, attending any party or issuing any statement without the prior approval of the Soviet commander.

9484

CSO: 4203

AFGHANISTAN

RUSSIANS DESTROYED 3,000 MOSQUES, DISRUPTED RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Karachi JANG in Urdu 4 Sep 80 p 1, 12

[Text] New Delhi, 3 Sep (APP, REUTER, UPP, Radio report)--The Russians have destroyed 3,000 mosques, and have killed 11,000 members of the Muslim clergy, resulting in the closure of all religious institutions. Fierce fighting continues between the Afghan Mujahidin and the Soviets in Paktia, Ghazni, Jalalabad, Herat, Qandahar and other areas. The Kabul-Jalalabad highway is under control of the Mujahidin. A convoy of Soviet troops has been destroyed by the Mujahidin at Wardak.

According to the correspondent of JANG at Peshawar, heavy fighting is still going on in various parts of Afghanistan such as (Sindhu Pass?), Ghazni, Kabul and Jalalabad. At one front the mujahidin thwarted an attack by the Soviets, in which both sides suffered heavy casualties. Harkat-I-Islami Inqilab [The Islamic Revolutionary Movement] reports an attack on the Mujahidin by Soviet troops using five hundred tanks that lasted two days. Ten tanks and 3 ammunition carriers were destroyed, and a bulldozer was set on fire by the Mujahidin. One mujahid was killed and three others wounded in the attack. Another attack by the Soviets at (Sindhu Pass) was repulsed after 24 hours of fierce fighting. Six Soviet soldiers were killed, and 3 others were wounded.

The mujahidin ambushed one Soviet tank, killing 1 member of the crew, and capturing 12. A heavy battle took place at Asmar with the arrival of fresh Soviet reinforcements. Eleven mujahidin lost their lives in that Soviet onslaught which was repulsed, forcing the Soviets to retreat. In another incident at Ghazni, the mujahidin arrested and killed 4 members of the Khalq Party. In other heavy fighting at Kabul and Jalalabad, the Soviets used helicopter gunships. Fourteen Soviets were killed by the mujahidin, who also seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

UPP reports that according to a spokesman for the Afghan freedom fighters, from the first day of their intrusion into Afghanistan until the first week of August, the Soviets have destroyed 3,000 mosques and put to death some 11,000 members of the Muslim clergy, thus disrupting religious education in a large number of schools. The spokesman claimed that if the freedom fighters had as much as one third of the arms and weapons the Soviets have, they could drive the Soviets not only out of Afghanistan, but out of Central Asia too.

Quoting Western sources in New Delhi, Reuter reports heavy fighting between the Soviet troops and Afghan freedom fighters in various parts of Afghanistan. Soviet planes heavily bombarded the city of Herat. Reports of clashes have also been received from the southern province of Qandahar. The Kabul-Jalalabad highway is practically in the hands of the freedom fighters, who destroyed it at various points along with a bridge. They also blocked the highway by rolling down massive pieces of rocks from nearby mountains.

In Kabul, members of the ruling party are still being attacked. In Wardak, the mujahidin destroyed a road with mines just as a Soviet convoy was passing by. Traffic of incoming Soviet transport planes, bringing more Soviet troops into Afghanistan, has increased at Kabul Airport. Helicopters are now frequently used to move Soviet troops from Kabul to the north, east and north-eastern regions.

Reliable sources report that several officials of the ministry of foreign affairs have either been dismissed or transferred. Doctors and technical experts, who want to go abroad, are not issued passports. Some have even been stopped at the airport. Besides, it is now compulsory to obtain prior permission from the secret police before making any real estate transaction. This is to prevent people from leaving the country upon disposing of their property.

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CSO: 4203

AFGHANISTAN

BRIEFS

FLEEING RANKING PERSONALITIES ARRESTED--London, 23 Aug (REUTER/BBC)--Mr Abdus Samad Chaus, a former undersecretary of foreign affairs; Mr Khair Muhammad Atlan, the Dean of Kabul University; Mr Abdul Ahad Rashid, the director general of foreign affairs in the ministry of planning; and several other high ranking officials of the Parcham Party were arrested just as they were about to flee the country a few days ago. [Text] [Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 24 Aug 80 p 3] 9484

CSO: 4203

PRIME MINISTER: ZIA HAS REDEEMED ALL PLEDGES

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 11 Oct 80 pp 1, 8

[Text] Chittagong. Oct. 10: Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman said here today that President Ziaur Rahman had not come to power through any conspiracy or intrigue but by the people's revolution of November 7 1975 reports BSS.

He was addressing a mammoth public meeting at the Laldigh Maidan organised by the city unit of BNP the meeting was addressed by Deputy Prime Minister Mr Jamaluddin Ahmed Deputy Speaker Mr Sultan Ahmed Chowdhury BNP Secretary General Prof. A Q M Badruddaza Chowdhury State Minister for Power Mr. L. K. Siddiky Mr Oali Ahmed MP and Prof Arif Moinuddin MP.

The meeting was presided over by Mr Salimullah President of the city BNP.

The Prime Minister said that never before in the history of the world a military general having come to power through a revolution, handed over authority to the people.

Shah Aziz said that President Zia had redeemed all his pledges and commitments to the people.

Enumerating the achievements of the BNP Government and the party the Prime Minister said the party had established an elected and sovereign Parliament which have unfettered legislative and financial powers.

He said the constitution of the country had been democratised and the President no longer enjoyed the power of veto which late Sheikh Mujib had enjoyed.

Shah Aziz said that if a law passed by parliament for the second time for reconsideration the President could not withhold his assent. This is the redeeming feature of the sovereign parliament he added.

The Prime Minister said although in a presidential form of government like ours the ministers are responsible to the President they were accountable to parliament also. In many ways our parliament is more democratic than those of France and the USA.

Shah Aziz said that the BNP Government had restored all fundamental rights suspended by the BKSAL government reintroduced multi-party system and allowed freedom of the press. During the BKSAL regime; there were only four newspapers, but now there are

460 newspapers enjoying complete freedom and intellectual democracy. He said that with the lifting of the Martial Law and emergency there is now full display of democracy and fundamental rights are justifiable as well as enforceable.

The BNP Government; he said by law had provided all the privileges for the functioning of the Opposition parties and even had provided remuneration salary; rank and status of a Minister to the Leader and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Parliament.

No Sense of Direction

The Prime Minister said that the opposition parties had no sense of direction and had no harmony in their thought process. He deprecated that some of those parties seek inspiration from foreign ideology. He asserted that no other party than the BNP had the material and leadership of an alternative government in foreseeable future. The opposition parties suffer from severe internal conflict and deep frustration and despair. That is why a large number of opposition leaders and workers are leaving their parties and joining the BNP he added.

Despite the opposition failure he however wanted strong opposition parties because multi-party system cannot be effective without opposition and dissent.

Shah Aziz said that the Government as well as the Opposition parties are essential for the [illegible] and sustenance of [illegible].

He said that President Ziaur Rahman's peaceful revolutionary programmes had given a new sense of direction to the people who are now engaged in massive development activities and the rural life is bristling with brisk economic activities promoting politics of peace and production. With the completion of 162 canals this year there had been higher production of wheat to the extent of seven lakh tons and we have piled up 13 lakh maunds of foodgrains as emergency stock.

He said we hope to be self-sufficient in food in the next two years and we shall be able to export foodgrains to earn foreign exchange for accelerating the pace of development.

Meaningful Change

The Prime Minister said with the implementation of the Five Year Plan there shall be meaningful change in the economic life of the country. The concept of the self-reliant village government (gram sarkar) and the growing strength of the village defence party have generated much enthusiasm among the people. These two institutions he said; will ensure peace and stability and restore confidence of the rural people.

The BNP government; he said had attained internal peace conducive to production and development in all sectors and at the same time had earned the love and esteem of the international community.

Shah Aziz said bilateral relations of Bangladesh with other countries and in particular with the Muslim countries are further stimulated. Bangladesh's role in the Security Council Islamic Conference non-aligned meet and at the Commonwealth had on issues like Palestine, South Africa Kampuchea and Afghanistan had been applauded.

He said that the strength of the BNP Government and the party lie in the rural people and in the leadership of President Zia. He called upon the people to build the national unity on the basis of Bangladesh nationalism which is the only deterrent against adventurism and politics of violence.

Jamaluddin

Speaking on the occasion Mr Jamaluddin Ahmed said that a Taka one-crore plan had been taken up for the development of Chittagong city during the next five year of this Taka three crore would be spent during the current year for the development of roads.

He said the BNP had emerged as the single largest party and it would remain with the masses.

Badruddoza

In his speech, party Secretary General Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury said that the BNP had become the most popular party because it has established Bangladesh nationalism restored democracy of the people believed in people's power and rejected foreign 'ism' in its political approach.

Mr. Sultan Ahmed Chowdhury called upon the people to rally round the BNP under the dynamic leadership of President Zia who he saw had given political and economic programme for their welfare.

Later the Prime Minister attended the Urs ceremony at Hazrat Amanat Shah Mazar. He also addressed the BNP workers and front organisations.

CSO: 4220

PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES DACCA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 12 Oct 80 pp 1, 12

[Text] Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman said in Dacca on Saturday that a bill for keeping the campus free from politics will be introduced in the next session of Jatiya Sangsad, reports ENA.

He said 'students are free to be member of any political party but they should not bring politics into the class room. The university halls should not be turned into den of politics. Necessary laws will be enacted forbidding politics into class rooms and a bill to this effect will be introduced in next Jatiya Sangsad'.

Shah Aziz was speaking as the chief guest at the first annual conference of Dacca University Shamsunnahar Hall unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal at the hall auditorium in the afternoon. Prime Minister A S M Mustafizur Rahman opened the conference.

Shah Aziz said that no political party other than BNP is now capable of ruling the country. The opposition parties have no leaders and workers to rule the country."

He said the opposition is crippled due to their inner party conflicts. The disillusioned and frustrated workers of the opposition parties are now joining BNP which believes in the politics of democracy and production, he added.

He said the prime task before BNP is to nourish democracy.

The Prime Minister told the conference that the present government can be changed only through ballots. He said BNP believes in elections the peaceful democratic means of changing any government.

Shah Aziz noted with satisfaction the joining of some leaders and workers of other student organisations to Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal recently. He particularly mentioned the desertion from the JSD student front to the BNP student front.

He said no student organisation except Chhatra Dal has any principle and ideal. The Chhatra Dal has attracted the students with its ideals principles and programmes, he added.

Shah Aziz who holds the Education Ministry told the function that a new education system suiting to the needs of the modern age will be introduced. He said the new education system will solve employment problem.

Mr Mustafizur Rahman, in his speech called upon the girl students to contribute towards politics in a bigger way. Mentioning some female prime ministers of the world by name he said they have proved that women are not less efficient in politics than men. He said that women in the country are still lagging behind men due to some superstition.

He said girl students should pursue the politics of production and democracy. He called upon the Chhatra Dal workers to spread its ideals among all students.

Stressing the need establishing women's rights at all levels of society the Home Minister said students of the hall should build up a movement to achieve this goal.

CSO: 4220

RAHMAN TALKS ON CHANGES IN EDUCATION SYSTEM

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 8 Oct 80 pp 1, 8

[Text] Kushtia, Oct. 7: Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman today said that the government was bringing about substantial change in the educational system to introduce planned and production oriented education, reports BSS.

He was addressing a meeting of students, teachers and a cross section of people at Bhermara College premises on the occasion of the installation ceremony of the newly elected office-bearers of the college students union.

Shah Aziz said that development grants to educational institutions will depend on the results of examinations participation of teachers and students in the mass education drive and of the success of the second phase of President Zia's revolution in education sector.

The Prime Minister said that the government has already started fulfilling its constitutional obligation to introduce compulsory and universal primary education. All educational institutions have been put under a study and only such institutions will survive and will be eligible for receiving government grants which satisfy minimum conditions as prescribed by the Government, he added.

Moral Crisis

He said that the society was passing through a psychological and moral crisis resulting from an hysterical wave of materialism. The Islamic Research and Education Centre which has been set up as a statutory organisation will provide a sense of direction in the education sector he observed.

The education system he said has to suit the needs and requirements of the modern age of science and technology and the government will encourage imparting such knowledge for technological progress.

The Prime Minister called for closer relations between the teachers and the students. He said that a teacher was not a mere functionary he should be a model to be emulated and it was not only what he taught that matters but what he did. The way he conducted himself, his deportment in class and outside were all expected to conform to an ideal which the people would accept.

He also called upon the students to maintain the sanctity of educational institutions and not allow any politics in the class room and within the campus of the institutions. He said that the Government was determined to enforce discipline within the campus according to law.

Shah Aziz said that malpractices in examinations indiscipline and misconduct of both teachers and students are punishable.

Presided over by S M Kazi Anwarul Islam Principal of the college the meeting was addressed among others by Mr Mohammad Abul Hussain Vice-President of the students union.

Earlier the Prime Minister addressed the BNP workers and leaders at Kushtia and at his village home Koital.

CSO: 4220

ACTIVITIES OF VISITING GUINEANS REPORTED

Zia, Toure 13 Oct Meeting

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 14 Oct 80 p 1

[Text] President Ahmed Sekou Toure and President Ziaur Rahman in a summit meeting on Monday reviewed major regional and global issues with particular emphasis on Middle East and Jerusalem situation. The two Presidents also agreed to further develop economic and political relations between Guinea and Bangladesh.

Briefing newsmen on the talks Foreign Secretary Mr. S. A. M. S. Kibria said that the joint communique which would be issued this (Tuesday) morning at the end of the three-day state visit of the Guinean President would specify the steps the two Presidents decided to pursue for further developing bilateral relations.

The Foreign Secretary said that the two Presidents who held their talks on board "Sandhani" during a river cruise discussed the future course of action of the three-member Jerusalem Committee of the organisation of the Islamic Conference. As the two Presidents are the members of the Jerusalem Committee, the Foreign Secretary said the focal point of their discussions was on Jerusalem.

The two leaders agreed to synchronise their efforts to establish the rights of the Arabs on Jerusalem as members of the Jerusalem Committee before the Islamic summit meeting scheduled in December in Dacca.

Replying to a question the Foreign Secretary said that there was a possibility of a meeting of the Jerusalem Committee of which King Hasan of Morocco is the Chairman before the Islamic summit meeting. The date and venue of such meeting will be decided soon, he said.

In their free and friendly discussions the two leaders touched upon Iraq-Iran war. Both the leaders wanted speedy end to this fratricidal war between the two Muslim countries, the Foreign Secretary said. [as published]

The two Presidents discussed the problems faced by the developing countries. They also discussed the on going North-South dialogue aimed at helping the developing countries. As Bangladesh has very good relations with the African countries the two leaders evinced keen interest in further strengthening the bilateral relations with particular emphasis on economic cooperation between Guinea and Bangladesh.

In the talks that continued for a few hours President Ziaur Rahman was assisted by Commerce Minister Mr. Saifur Rahman who is now acting as Foreign Minister in the absence of Professor Shamsul Huq, Home Minister Mr. Mostafizur Rahman and Foreign Secretary Mr. S. A. M. S. Kibria. President Ahmed Sekou Toure was assisted by Mr. Abdoulaye Toure, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Cooperation and Mr. Mousa Diakite, Minister for Housing and Urbanisation.

Ministerial-level Talks

On board another vessel "Dishari" a ministerial-level talks was held for promoting bilateral relations on various fields between the two countries. [as published]

Deputy Prime Minister in charge of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock Mr. S. A. Bari, Rural Development Minister Capt (Rtd) Abdul Halim Chowdhury, Ports, Shipping and Inland Water Minister Mr. Nurul Huq, Labour Minister Mr. Reazuddin Ahmed and State Minister for Works Dr. Fazlul Karim represented Bangladesh while their visiting counter parts participated in the talks. [as published]

Earlier in the morning President Ziaur Rahman called on his guest President Ahmed Sekou Toure at Bangabhaban and from there the two Presidents along with their entourage left for Pagla ghat in a ceremonial motorcade for river cruise and summit talks. [as published]

Attends Reception at Bangabhaban

BSS adds: Visiting President Sekou Toure of Guinea attended a reception given in his honour by President Ziaur Rahman in Dacca on Monday evening at Bangabhaban.

Vice-President Mr. Justice Abdus Sattar, Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman, Ministers former Presidents Mr. Justice A. M. Sayem and Mr. Mohammadullah several Opposition leaders, members of diplomatic missions and high civil and military officials were among others who attended the reception. [as published]

The President of Guinea later attended a cultural show at Bangabhaban.

Delegation's Departure

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 15 Oct 80 pp 1, 12

[Text] President Ahmed Sekou Toure was given a hearty send-off on Tuesday when he left Dacca after a three-day state visit to Bangladesh. President Ziaur Rahman bade his brother President of Guinea farewell at Kurmitola International Airport.

A 21-gun salute marked the end of the first ever state visit of any Guinean President to Bangladesh when President Ahmed Sekou Toure embarked his special plane. He was given a guard of honour by contingents of three Services of the Armed Forces.

Earlier, President Sekou Toure accompanied by his host, President Ziaur Rahman, drove from Bangabhaban to Kurmitola International Airport in a ceremonial motorcade. All along the long route, which was decorated with flags of the two

countries and big size portraits of President Ahmed Sekou Toure, people lined up to wave to the two Presidents.

The Vice-President, Mr. Justice Abdus Sattar, Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman, Cabinet members, chiefs of the Three Services, heads of diplomatic missions and high-ranking civil and military officials were present at the airport to accord a hearty send-off to President Ahmed Sekou Toure and other distinguished members of his entourage which included six Ministers of his Cabinet.

The special plane of the Royal Air of Maroc (Morocco) carrying the Guinean President and his entourage was escorted upto Bangladesh border by two Bangladesh Air Force Fighters. [as published]

President Ahmed Sekou Toure will visit Pakistan and Saudi Arabia to perform Haj before returning home.

Text of Communique

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 15 Oct 80 p 3

[Text] Following is the text of Joint Communique issued in Dacca on Tuesday at the end of 3-day State visit to Bangladesh of Mr. Ahmed Sekou Toure, President of the Revolutionary People's Republic of Guinea:--

At the invitation of the President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Ziaur Rahman, the President of the Revolutionary People's Republic of Guinea, His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Sekou Toure paid a State visit to Bangladesh from October 12 to 14, 1980. The President of Guinea was accompanied by Their Excellencies, Alhadji Moussa Diakite, Member of the Politburo of PDG and Minister for Housing and Urbanisation, Alhadji Abdoulaye Toure, Member of the Politburo of PDG and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Co-operation, Mr. Lansana Dianne, Member of the Politburo of PDG and Minister for Defence Mr. Fily Cissoko, Secretary of the Politburo of PDG and Minister for Fisheries and Livestock, Mr. Mamadou Sy, Member of the Central Committee of Politburo of PDG and Minister for Labour, Mr. Zoumany Sangare, Member of the Central Committee of Politburo of PDG and Minister for Rural Development and Tourism Mr. Daouda Kourouma, Ambassador, Mr. Mamadou Sanio Conde, Ambassador and other high ranking officials of the Government of the Revolutionary People's Republic of Guinea. [as published]

On his arrival, His Excellency the President of Guinea and the members of his entourage were given a very enthusiastic, warm and fraternal welcome by the Government and the people of Bangladesh reflecting the bonds of Islamic brotherhood and friendship between the two peoples.

During the visit, His Excellency the President of Guinea laid a wreath at the Jatiyo Shaheed Smritishoudha (National Memorial for Martyrs) at Savar.

Their Excellencies the Vice President and the Prime Minister of Bangladesh paid courtesy calls on His Excellency the President of Guinea.

The two Presidents held discussions on wide ranging subjects concerning bilateral regional and international matters in a very friendly and cordial atmosphere marked by full understanding, mutual trust and respect.

The President of Bangladesh and His Excellency the President of Guinea, recognising that their two countries are bound by traditional ties rooted in shared culture and religion, agreed that they hold identical views on issues of mutual concern. They reaffirmed their mutual desire to further promote and expand the fraternal relations and the areas of mutual co-operation between the two countries in all fields. The two sides also explored the possibility of increasing the volume of trade and economic co-operation between Guinea and Bangladesh. They also agreed to exchange Ambassadors between the two countries as soon as possible.

While reviewing the global political and economic situation the two leaders emphasised the need for promoting and strengthening international peace and security based on principles of sovereign equality territorial integrity, non-interference in each other's internal affairs and peaceful resolution of all disputes. [as published] They stressed the need for strict adherence to the basic principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations, the Non-aligned Movement and the Organisation of Islamic Conference.

The two leaders stressed the need for solidarity among the Muslim countries and pledged to uphold the principles of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference. They advocated fruitful co-operation among the members of the Organisation of Islamic Conference.

The two Presidents reviewed the situation in the Middle East and expressed their deep concern over the escalation of tension in the area. They also condemned the Zionist aggression against the Arab people and its occupation of the Arab land. They very strongly condemned the Zionist attempt to annex the Holy City of Jerusalem as their capital defying the world opinion and violating the decisions of the Security Council and the United Nations. They reiterated their conviction that a just and permanent solution of the Middle East problems can only be achieved on the basis of complete withdrawal of the occupation forces from all occupied Arab territories, return of the Holy city of Jerusalem to its original status. The two leaders expressed deep satisfaction at the formation of the three-member Summit Level Committee on Jerusalem to suggest effective measures for the liberation of Al Quds Al-Sherif and the restoration of the Holy city to Islamic sovereignty and the restoration of the rights of the Palestinian people including their inalienable right to establish an independent state in their own homeland. They reiterated their determination to work in close co-operation and harmony with other members of the Organisation of Islamic Conference in realizing these desired objectives. They expressed their sincere thanks to the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and the Jerusalem Committee for assigning the sacred responsibility to the three Heads of State of realising these noble objectives.

The two sides expressed deep concern and anxiety over the deteriorating Iraq-Iran relations and urged the two fraternal Islamic nations for an immediate cessation of the hostilities and an amicable solution of their disputes.

The two leaders expressed their profound satisfaction at the independence of Zimbabwe and the transfer of power from a minority racist regime to the elected representative of the people of Zimbabwe. They stressed their common stand of supporting the struggle of the people against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racial discrimination and apartheid. They expressed their deep

concern over the deepening crisis in Southern Africa and reiterated their total support for the heroic struggle of the African peoples for transfer of power from the minority racist regimes to the true representatives of the peoples of Namibia and Azania. They urged the International Community to persuade the illegal racist regime in Namibia to transfer power immediately to the people of Namibia. They condemned the illegal racist regime in South Africa for their aggression against the Southern African countries including Angola. They reiterated their deep condemnation for the apartheid policy of the illegal regime in South Africa.

The two sides expressed their grave concern over the present worsening situation in Afghanistan and emphasized the need for complete withdrawal of foreign troops from the soil of Afghanistan.

Reviewing the international economic situation the two leaders expressed their desire to continue to work together and strive for the establishment of the New International Economic Order based on equity and justice. They reaffirmed the need for continuous North-South dialogue for concrete measures to alleviate the problems of the South. In this context the two Presidents were convinced that there existed considerable scope for wide ranging economic trade and technical co-operation between the two countries. [as published] The two Presidents further agreed to establish a Joint Commission at Ministerial level which would identify the mutually beneficial fields of co-operation.

The President of Bangladesh apprised His Excellency the President of Guinea the present political and economic situation in Bangladesh. His Excellency the President of Guinea appreciated the various measures taken by the Government of Bangladesh under the able and wise leadership of President Zaiur Rahman for the continued peace, progress prosperity and wellbeing of the people of Bangladesh. [as published] The President of Guinea also lauded the contribution made by Bangladesh President for promoting understanding, peace, stability and co-operation in South Asia. The President of Guinea apprised the President of Bangladesh the existing situation in Southern Africa, Guinea in particular, and special efforts made by him in promoting peace and stability in the region.

15. It was observed with satisfaction that the visit of His Excellency the President of Guinea has helped further consolidate and deepen the bonds of friendship and understanding between the two brotherly countries. [as published] The President of Guinea conveyed to the President of Bangladesh the esteem and goodwill of the people of Guinea for the people of Bangladesh. The President of Bangladesh reciprocated these friendly sentiments.

16. The President of Guinea expressed his profound gratitude and appreciation to the President of Bangladesh for the cordial reception and warm hospitality accorded to him and to the members of his entourage by the Government and people of Bangladesh during the visit. [as published] He extended a very cordial invitation to the President of Bangladesh to visit Guinea which was accepted with great pleasure.

TEXT OF FINANCE MINISTER'S SPEECH TO WORLD BANK

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 Oct 80 pp 5, 6

[Following is the text of the speech delivered by the Finance Minister, Mr. M. Saifur Rahman, at the annual meeting (1980) of the World Bank in Washington on October 3, 1980.]

[Text] It is a matter of great privilege for me to address this meeting of the two great institutions--the Bank and the Fund for the first time. Representing one of the least developed countries we view these meetings with great hopes. I therefore welcome the most encouraging statement made by President Carter. I would also like to join others in extending a very hearty welcome to the new entrants to the Bank and the Fund. We are particularly happy to see the People's Republic of China take its rightful place in the two Bretton woods institutions.

By extending our sincere thanks to President McNamara and Managing Director De Larosiere for their excellent and illuminating statements, I would like to pass on to the international economic situation.

Continued high inflation in the industrial countries with slow down in their growth and the rise in prices of internationally traded goods in general and of oil in particular, have all cumulated to produce staggering current account deficits for oil importing developing countries. In concrete terms this means a sharp erosion in the ability of non-oil developing countries to sustain their current imports not to speak of meeting their investment needs.

While the burden has been heavy for all developing countries it has been particularly acute for the low income countries. Aggregate figures for all developing countries do not clearly reveal that for 38 low-income countries real growth of a little more than the 2 per cent in 1979 left no rooms whatsoever for per capita income gains.

The annual reports of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank as well as the world development report 1980 have brought up a common theme that in the coming decade the developing countries must undertake programmes for structural readjustments of their economies.

The reports also suggest that such adjustment programmes by the LDCs require strong and enlarged support from the industrialized countries and capital surplus oil exporters in stimulating demand for developing countries exports in recycling oil surpluses and in providing aid.

The success of this meeting will depend to what extent consensus and agreements can be reached towards concrete action for such international support. As the first annual meeting of the decade we must not lose the opportunity of arriving at agreements as to how these two great institutions can reorder their policies, operations and management to meet the challenges of the coming years. The reports circulated in this meeting have also pointed to one thing that the deteriorating economic and development prospects of the developing countries are almost entirely due to external shocks and are largely of external origin. Therefore the remedies must be based primarily on external support and action.

The developing countries achieved a modest success in responding to the challenges of the 70s through virtually enforced reduction in their standard of living which is apparent in the total number of people living in absolute poverty at the end of the decade. To expect them to achieve even the same degree of success in the face of much greater challenges in the 80s without stepping up external support would not square with the harsh economic realities of today.

While international action will be needed for all developing countries special attention will have to be given to the low income countries. Adjustment measures must aim at increasing supplies and not retraining demands of those already at mere subsistence level. All these efforts essentially call for massive flow of external capital on concessional terms. And yet the record here is lamentable to say the least. Apart from a few worthy examples the developed countries have levels of ODA which are not at all flattering for them. And in 1979 even that unflattering level suffered further decline when the need for greater aid flow was more compelling. Most disheartening yet is the fact that the low income countries receive only about 37 per cent of total ODA and on a per capita basis much less than the middle and upper income developing countries. Hence we fully support the proposal of the Group of Seventy Seven that ODA to the least developed countries must be doubled by 1985 and quadrupled by the end of the decade in terms of 1977 prices in this context we strongly urge upon the developed countries to initiate steps to implement the immediate and substantial action programme adopted unanimously at the UNCTAD.

We congratulate the World Bank on another successful year of operation leading to a total commitment of dollar 11.5 billion for the IBRD and IDA. We are happy that the Bank's lending programme will continue to expand in the current financial year, but are disappointed to note that the lending programme for IDA will go down not only in real terms but also in nominal terms from dollar 3.8 billion to dollar 3.5 billion of equal concern is the fact that of the total assistance extended by the World Bank group to the developing countries only about one third goes to the low income countries. The Bank has introduced an innovative idea for expanding non-project lending to countries through structural adjustment loans which has by now received general support. This programme will be meaningful only if there is additionality of resources. For IDA countries, however it will not mean any additional benefit in terms of total flow of resources not to speak of additional programme lending which has been so strongly recommended by the Brandt Commission. We agree that the Bank's resources need to be augmented to compensate for continuing international inflation the need for expanding assistance in the energy sector and to meet the needs of the new members. We therefore fully support Mr. McNamara's proposal for increasing the resource base of the Bank. The three alternatives mentioned by him need to be carefully examined by the Executive Directors to come to definite conclusions. Action to change the gearing ratio of the Bank should be at the heart

of all action in this direction. While on this subject we cannot but note with regret that the general capital increase of the Bank which was approved by the Board of Governors sometime ago is yet to become effective in the absence of necessary legislative measures by some important shareholders. It is of greater concern that the agreement for sixth replenishment of IDA is also not yet effective in spite of the strong support given to the replenishment measures by the 1980 Venice summit meeting.

We are grateful to the IDA donors for the arrangements for advance contributions and hope that the bridging arrangements will become effective before long so that there is no hiatus in IDA lending. While on this subject we would also like to convey our thanks to the new contributors to IDA. While we fully support Mr. McNamara's proposal for increasing the resource base and lending capacity of the World Bank we realize however that these measures will not directly benefit the low income countries like Bangladesh. It will be necessary to design new mechanisms to increase Bank assistance to countries like ours and it is in this context that the proposal for interest subsidy needs to be urgently and carefully pursued. We would strongly urge the World Bank and donor Governments to set aside a part of the aid funds as interest subsidy to enable low-income countries to borrow more funds on terms which they can afford. Besides, Executive Directors of the World Bank may examine the possibility of allocating a part of the Bank's net income to a special interest subsidy account to enable the low-income countries to borrow large amounts from the World Bank. These steps will certainly be in the direction of facilitating recycling of international funds [?].

As I have already mentioned the World Bank deserves to be congratulated for expanding its assistance to the developing countries for energy development. We fully support the idea of increasing the lending programme for this sector to dollar 25 billion in the next five years. Hence the idea of a separate energy affiliate calls for immediate appraisal to enable the Bank to organize the development programme effectively and adequately. Here again the low-income countries would not benefit significantly unless interest subsidy or soft blending is considered. We would urge both the OECD and OPEC countries to extend their full support to this proposed energy affiliate including additional resources to support interest subsidy for lending to low-income countries.

We cannot let this opportunity pass by without referring to the excellent record set by the OPEC countries in the field of development assistance. Though the average level of assistance by the capital surplus OPEC countries over the last seven years has been in the order of 4 percent of their GNP the record of few individual countries in percentage terms has been even greater in some years. A noteworthy feature of OPEC assistance is its united character. Another quantitative edge of OPEC aid is that unlike the aid from industrialized countries the fund that the OPEC provides does not flow back to them in the form of purchase orders as it happened in the case of aid from developed countries. We welcome the measures taken by Iraq, Mexico and Venezuela to help developing countries with special measures relating to import of oil. We hope the OPEC group as a whole will adopt similar measures for all developing countries without further delay. We also strongly welcome the decision by the OPEC to convert the OPEC Special Fund into an international development agency. We have no doubt that in keeping with their past laudable record this Fund will adopt special measures to help the low-income countries.

The deterioration in the terms of trade of the developing countries has also eroded the resources that would otherwise be available for imports and investments. It has been estimated that had the terms of trade of non-oil developing countries been the same in 1979 as they were in 1970 their external purchasing power in 1979 would have been dollar 36 billion greater than it actually was. This only shows the devastating impact that terms on trade can have on investable resources. The consequent reduction in the purchasing power of national income has in turn exerted downward pressure on national savings investment and growth. The rising trend of protectionism has further aggravated this situation. In spite of exhortations in all international fora it is indeed a regrettable fact that protectionism has been persistently resorted to by the developed countries instead of undertaking structural adjustments in their economies which they patronizingly propagate for low-income countries as apocalyptic remedies in respect of their social and political background. My question to developed countries Mr Chairman is why they betray reluctance to adopt adjustment measures which so generously they advise us.

While on the subject of concessionary assistance and resources-reference must be made to the serious dimensions which the debt problem is beginning to assume particularly for the low-income countries.

Turning to the operation of the Fund we are happy to note that during the past year the Fund took some concrete steps extending the maximum repurchase period under the extended Fund facility from 8 to 10 years and that access to the compensatory financing facility has also been liberalized in some respects. We understand that the Fund is currently examining in depth the programme of immediate action prepared by the G-24. However it will not be wide off the mark to suggest that very little concrete action has been taken by the Fund during the year to meet the new requirements of the developing countries. The size of drawings by the developing countries has not so far been encouraging obviously due to present conditionalities particularly those betraying very little or no regard or sensitivities to the country's socio-political imperatives.

It is also regrettable that the seventh general review of quotas has not yet come into effect. The resources of the Fund would in any case need to be enhanced through other measures. Recognizing this fact the interim committee gave clearance to the Managing Director to go for larger borrowing with which a new facility could be set up to meet the present payment crisis as was done through the oil facility in the earlier part of the last decade. We note that the Executive Board is continuing discussions on the future of the Trust Fund. We would strongly urge that the Trust Fund be continued beyond 1980 with substantial augmentation of its resources. We are also disappointed to note that no decision has yet been reached on the subject of a subsidy account for the supplementary financing facility and for using other Fund resources by the low-income countries. We hope action will be taken by the Executive Board on this subject as early as possible. As regards the possibility of Funds assistance to members adversely affected by high food import costs we welcome the discussions in the interim committee but would like to add that such a facility must be based on additionality of resources.

While the two Bretton Woods institutions have by and large served the developing countries well for a long period the need for restructuring these institutions have not been felt by all including the Brandt Commission. As far as the Fund is

concerned we cannot altogether ignore the voice coming out of the recent Arusha Conference. We hope the Executive Board will consider the suggestions made in that conference carefully particularly regarding conditionalities and measures needed to deal with imbalance resulting from externally induced factors. The recommendations of the programme for immediate action on conditionalities deserve full considerations.

While seeking Fund assistance we are fully conscious of the need for economic and financial discipline when adjustment measures are taken but we feel perturbed at attempts to impose conditionalities without due regard to a time frame and to their socio-political implications heedless of the cultural and democratic social values of the people. Such approach is more often than not likely to end in social convulsions threatening the very fabric of the social equilibrium thereby destabilizing the society which it is seeking to assist. Economic policies of the nations particularly the developing ones cannot be considered in isolation of their social and political programmes policies and institutions. In this context it is heartening to listen to the comments by the Fund Managing Director that the Fund now endeavours to assist members with flexibility of realism and that the correction of disequilibria will often need to be extended over a longer period than that was considered normal in the past. I am hopeful that this policy statement will reflect on Fund's decision making process with informed understanding and awareness.

The world development report vividly describes the likely scenario and the grim prospects for the developing countries in general and low-income countries in particular in the next decade. It is quite clear that in the absence of meaningful action by the international community declining growth massive unemployment and lack of resources for sustaining the minimum needs for imports and investments are likely to lead to social unrest in many developing countries thus ultimately affecting the prospects for peace and security. It will not be an exaggeration to say that there is a sense of desperation in many developing countries particularly the low-income countries. The failure of the two development decades to achieve targets the failure of the international community to muster concrete support in favour of the new international economic order more recent failures to reach agreements at UNCTAD V UNIDO III and finally the disappointing outcome of the UN special session have all contributed to this sense of desperation and frustration. The recommendations of the Brandt Commission aptly described as a "programme for survival" have therefore raised some hopes and in our view provide another opportunity for exhibition of statesmanship and political will by the leaders of the industrialized countries.

We commend Mr. Brandt and the members of his Commission for their understanding of the global problems and their constructive proposals for collective action for overcoming these problems. Their recommendations are comprehensive, balanced and realistic. While discussions and negotiations should be speedily organized following the expected summit meeting in Mexico city our two institutions must also promptly deal with the recommendations relating to them and finalize proposals for early action by the Governors.

The need for increasing representation of the developing countries particularly at appropriate manager levels, has been highlighted in the earlier meetings and we noted some progress in that direction in the Bank's annual reports. At a time when the two institutions have to increasingly deal with the developing countries in fields having important bearing on social and political sensitivities direct

experience of socio-economic process in the LDCs will be highly relevant and desirable for those who are responsible for their day to day operations. We hoped the management of the Bank and the Fund will give serious thought to the subject.

Bangladesh accounts for one third of the population of the least developed countries. With 55,000 square miles land and 90 million people approximately 1,500 persons per square mile today it has one of the lowest per capita income in the world. We have been doubly hit by the world economic situation. On the one hand, we have to pay increasingly more for import of oil on the other, for imported capital goods and industrial raw materials. The cost of our import bill for oil and petroleum products will be over two third of our total export earnings this year. This has put extremely severe pressure on our balance of payments.

We are determined however, to raise the level of living of our people and not only to achieve self-sufficiency in food production but also to generate surplus for exports as early as possible. It is with these hopes and objectives that we have launched our Second Five Year Plan from July this year. Our priorities are agriculture, population control and rural development of our energy resources and universal primary education. To attain these objectives we have progressively undertaken radical transformation of our administrative and political institutions so as to allow a fuller participation of the people in the developmental process. But we need strong and generous support from the international community to reinforce our national efforts.

Bangladesh has had fruitful cooperation with the World Bank and the Fund since its independence. We are looking forward to greater cooperation in the years ahead. It is therefore with a sense of loss that I now have to say a few words about Mr. McNamara the outgoing President of the World Bank. When we look back we cannot but recognize the impact that the World Bank has made in the affairs of the developing countries over more than a decade under his leadership. The impact has been in qualitative as well as quantitative terms. During his stewardship the Bank explored new horizons, reached new heights and above all raised new hopes in the developing world. His statement in the opening meeting indicates his concern and dedication for the 800 million people in the developing countries trapped in absolute poverty, the wretched of the earth. Under Mr. McNamara's leadership the Bank has set worldwide standards for development investments and what is most important he has given a social and human dimension to development investments by giving attention to social sensitivities on which the success of all investments for the poor depend. We are sorry to see him go. We firmly believe and expect that the things he set in motion will continue with their momentum. The human touch and the dynamism which he will leave behind in the institution will, we have no doubt, make it a stronger human organization. Naturally we anxiously look at the stewardship of the Bank in the difficult days ahead. No doubt we need a man with vision and political acumen, sound financial capabilities to grapple with the difficult task of capturing resources through imaginative recycling devices, but above all, we need a man with unsurpassed dedication to the cause of international socio-economic development. The Executive Directors have a great responsibility in searching out a personality to meet the challenging requirements of the job and if necessary they should look for able persons across national frontiers including the developing countries.

We agree with Mr. McNamara that the goals and objectives of the coming decade should be accelerated economic growth and distribution of economic opportunities

among nations. However, political ends should not be allowed to dominate consideration of complex economic and development issues. We shall not find solutions if we cling to outdated concepts and institutions irrelevant to handling the emerging needs of the coming decade.

A journey along the path of collective endeavour would lead us to the attainment of goals with greater certainty and assurance. Economic and political compulsions dictate that we follow this path. We sincerely hope and pray that we make the right choice at the right time.

CSO: 4220

BANGLADESH WASTE OF UNICEF MATERIALS REPORTED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 8 Oct 80 pp 1, 8

[Text] About two million US dollars worth UNICEF materials are either misappropriated or wasted every year in Bangladesh according to Dr Michael H.K. Irwin, the outgoing UNICEF representative in Bangladesh.

Talking to the newsmen at the UNICEF office on Tuesday, Dr Irwin said that about 10 to 15 per cent of the total UNICEF supplies, which constitute 70 per cent of the yearly UNICEF budget in Bangladesh, were either wasted or misappropriated. He, however said that the wastage of misappropriation of UNICEF fund was more or less similar in other countries.

Dr Irwin was scheduled to leave Dacca for New York on Tuesday night to take up his new assignment as the adviser in the UNICEF Headquarters for the prevention and rehabilitation of childhood disabilities.

Bangladesh is the second biggest recipient of UNICEF Fund in the world. This year UNICEF will spend 20 million US dollars in its various programmes in Bangladesh.

Dr Irwin observed that UNICEF programmes with an added element of community participation were going on fairly well in Bangladesh. He said that involvement of community in various projects had produced better results.

He expressed his satisfaction over the development of partnership between UNICEF and the Government of Bangladesh in various UNICEF and government development projects.

BSS adds: Asked to explain his use of 'cautious optimism' he said he was impressed with the numerous efforts for development but he added considering the staggering problems facing Bangladesh it requires much work on its part even to hold to the present situation.

As a common Asian problem he said the biggest problem for the country remains population explosion. He added the density of population in Bangladesh could be compared to a situation with the entire population of the world put in the United States together. He said there are many problems to be solved in Bangladesh for which there is not too much of time.

But he said in very categorical terms that he was impressed to see a better organised government and a people always willing to work.

Asked by what time he thought Bangladesh could stop asking foreign aid to develop its economy he said any country would genuinely need aid for a long time to come to solve the problems of the high magnitude.

He, however, said he was not an expert in the field and pointed out that UNICEF only worked in a rather limited field to support government's programme for children's education, nutrition, sanitation and some women's projects. He also gave a brief resume of the activities and their progress over the years.

Dr Irwin a British said he would be succeeded by Mr Neil Batt an Australian who is presently the chairman of the Overseas Aid Council of Australia by profession a teacher.

Mr Batt was also the chairman of the Australian Labour Party and a former Deputy Prime Minister of the Australian province of Tasmania.

CSO: 4220

MEETING SUPPORT JSD 18-POINT PROGRAM

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 Oct 80 pp 1, 12

[Text] Major (Retd) M.A. Jalil, President, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) on Friday announced that his party would soon launch a "mass movement" with "greater political unity" to establish a "Krishak-Sramik Raj".

Addressing a big public meeting at Baitul Mukarram in observance of his party's "Mass Demand Day" the JSD chief criticised the Government for its failure in arresting the price spiral ensuring fair price to the growers for their agricultural products, maintaining law and order and weeding out corruption from the administration. He stressed the need for greater unity of all democratic and patriotic forces to emancipate the mass from present political and economic exploitations.

The public meeting held in support of the 18-point programme of the party was addressed by Mr. A.S.M. Abdur Rab, General Secretary and Mr. Shahjahan Siraj MP, Joint Secretary of JSD.

In his speech the JSD chief termed the 18-point programme of his party as the "Magna Carta" for the political and economic emancipation of the people. He reminded his party workers of the conspiracy against the 18-point programme from within and outside the party and asked them not to be misled and misguided by any propaganda. He said that with the determined unity of the party workers the 18-point programme could be achieved.

Criticising the Government's decision for designating the Independence Day as National Day the JSD chief demanded a positive explanation from the Government on the change of the name. He said that the nation fought the War of Liberation and millions laid down their lives for the independence of the country. He warned the Government of the consequences of any move aimed at distorting the history of the War of Liberation.

Analysing the present political, economic and social condition in the country which he termed as "very critical and dangerous", Major Jalil called for a national awareness about the rights of the people.

Mr. A.S.M. Abdur Rab said that the 18-point programme of his party was aimed at launching a mass movement for establishing an alternative leadership to what he called a "fascist regime".

The JSD General Secretary said that his party never believed in anarchy. "We want to establish discipline in our national life", he reiterated his party policy. He said that JSD would never accept one-party system in the old style and it would resist any attempt to establish "neo-Baksal" and military rule.

He blasted the Government for its failure in reflecting the hopes and aspirations of the people. He said that there was no democracy, no freedom of the Press and freedom of expression, no rule of law and law and order. He said that the present Government had lost the confidence of the people for rampant corruption in administration wrong economic policy which forced the country to be totally dependent on foreign aid and deteriorating law and order situation in the country.

The JSD leader demanded repeal of the Fourth and Fifth Amendment of the Constitution and end to political oppression and economic exploitation by the Government.

Referring to those who left the party opposing the 18-point programme he said that JSD had been cleared of conspirators. Referring the statements of the expelled members of the party he said that JSD was not divided and it could not be divided by a handful of conspirators. He urged the JSD workers not to be misguided by the false propaganda of the expelled members of the party and forge greater unity for the implementation of the 18-point programme.

Mr. Shahjahan Siraj who is the leader of the JSD Parliamentary Party termed the present Jatiya Sangsad as a "Rubber stamp". He demanded representation from all professions and vocations in the Parliament.

In the resolution read out by Mirza Sultan Raza, Vice President of JSD the public meeting stressed the need for unity of all patriotic and democratic forces to launch a mass movement on a minimum programme to establish socialism and an exploitation-free society.

After the public meeting a large procession was brought out that paraded the main thoroughfare of the city chanting slogans for the implementation of the 18-point programme.

CSO: 4220

BNP JOINT SECRETARY GENERAL APPOINTED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 24 Aug 80 p 12

[Text] Mr Ferdous Ahmed Qureishi has been made Joint Secretary General of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) by the Party Chairman President Ziaur Rahman. Born in 1942 in Noakhali Mr Qureishi passed his Matriculation examination in 1957 securing 12th position.

Mr Qureshi had been actively associated with student politics. He was the vice-president of the Dacca University Central Students union in 1966 and elected President of the then East Pakistan Students League in 1967.

Mr Qureishi played an active role in forming 'Pakistan Jatiya League and became its acting General Secretary. [as published] In 1976 he formed the Jatiya Janata Party. He joined the Bangladesh Nationalist Party in April this year. He was a freedom fighter.

He joined the daily ITTEFAQ as assistant editor in 1969. He is at present editor of the DAILY DESHBANGLA. He is co-chairman of the Bangladesh Editors' Council and Vice-President of the Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Parishad.



CSO: 4220

UN DELEGATE DEFENDS RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 14 Oct 80 p 1

[Text] Mrs. Selima Rahman, a Bangladesh delegate now attending the 35th session of General Assembly of UN in New York made a statement on Friday in the Third Committee meeting on the importance of the universal realisation of the right of people to self-determination, reports BSS. Mrs. Rahman, according to a message received in Dacca on Monday said that the right to self-determination and political independence was the first essential prerequisite for the attainment of human rights. She stressed that the international community was duty-bound to support and expedite the irreversible process of attainment of independence by the struggling people all over the world.

The Bangladesh delegate referred to the illegal presence of South Africa in Namibia and the denial of right of self-determination of the people of Palestine and reiterated her country's support in the struggle of the Palestinian people for their inalienable national rights.

Mrs. Rahman also emphasised that a just and lasting solution for Namibia required immediate withdrawal of the illegal presence of South Africa from that territory and independence of Namibia based on genuine election under the supervision and control of the United Nations.

CSO: 4220

AWAMI LEAGUE PROTESTS NATIONAL DAY DECLARATION

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 8 Oct 80 p 16

[Text] The Bangladesh Awami League (Malek) staged a demonstration on Tuesday in protest against the declaration of March 26 as National Day.

The party brought out procession from party central office which ended at Bahadur Shah Park. Party General Secretary Mr. Abdur Razzak, Organising Secretary Mr. Tofael Ahmed, President of city unit Mr. Mohammad Hanif participated in the procession. Earlier a workers meeting of the city unit was held at the central office in this connection.

Party leaders called upon the workers in the meeting to make the rally on October 12 a success.

The Bangladesh Chatra League demonstrations on Tuesday to voice protest against declaration of March 26 as National Day. A procession from the Arts Faculty paraded university campus and dispersed at the Science Annex. Later leaders of the organisation addressed a student rally.

Mr. Obaidul Quader and Mr. Bahlul Majnun Chunnu, President and General Secretary of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (Kader-Chunnu) in a joint statement on Tuesday urged the student community to observe complete strike in the Dacca University today (Wednesday) in protest against the government decision about declaration of the National Day.

Mr. Garib Newaj Chairman of the Bangladesh People's League (Garib-Newaj) in a statement on Tuesday condemned the decision declaring March 26 as National Day. He said that by this step Government has created a political issue and its result will be unwelcome.

The Bangladesh Awami League (Malek) will observe a protest day throughout the country on October 12 to voice its "strong resentment" against the declaration of the government to celebrate March 26 every year as the National Day says a Press release of the party.

A public rally will be held at the Baitul Mokarram in the city on the day at 3 p.m.

More political leaders and organisations continued on Monday to express their "strong protest" against the recent announcement by the government to observe March 26 as

the National Day. Such an announcement aims at belittling the sufferings and sacrifices of the freedom fighters and the countless millions in the country during the War of Liberation, such parties and leaders observed while nothing that the government declaration is meant to protect the interests of the anti-independence forces.

Statements to the Press in this connection were issued on the day by the city unit of Bangladesh Awami League (Mizan). Jatiyo Fkora Fa [?] and Bangladesh Azadi League (Tarkabagish).

CSO: 4220

DACCA MEETING URGES NATIONAL INFORMATION POLICY

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 14 Oct 80 pp 1, 12

[Text] Bangladesh Public Relations Association (BPRA) has urged the government to prepare a "national information and communication policy" reports ENA.

In a resolution adopted at the second national conference held in Dacca on Sunday the Association appealed to all concerned to consider the proposal of forming a media council with representatives of Journalists, Union Sangbad patra Parishad, Press Council, radio television and BPRA. [as published]

The association also urged the authority to open Mass Communication and Journalism Department in the universities and colleges.

The BPRA urged the government to help it in establishing a public relations institute for arrangement of regular training on public relations.

The BPRA in a resolution demanded that public relations should be used for national and public interest and not for personal interests.

It also felt that the importance of organisations would increase if public relations were associated with policy making. The association demanded that every organisation should have a public relations policy and job description of all public relations men.

The association supported the MacBride Commission's Report on a new world information order.

The conference in a resolution expressed concern at the serious illness of Mr Zahur Hossain Chowdhury former Editor of the daily Sangbad and a leading columnist of the country. The association urged the government to arrange better treatment for Mr Chowdhury.

All the BPRA adopted 6 resolutions in which it identified a number of problems faced by the public relations men called for improvement of their professional qualities and training facilities.

The measures suggested by BPRA for improvement of professional qualities are introduction of Bangladesh Civil Service (Information) by the government

participation in international conferences and seminars on public relations
regular training facilities on public relations and recognition of BPRA as
professional organisation of all public relations practitioners. (as published)

The conference deplored the attitude to use public relations only to counter
media onslaught without integrating public relations with management, for which
public relations can not be properly used.

CSO: 4220

MINISTER DISCUSSES MANPOWER EXPORT EXPANSION

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 8 Oct 80 p 1

[Text] Foreign exchange earnings through export of manpower would exceed Taka 400 crore this year, reports BSS.

This was disclosed by Mr Ataulddin Khan, Minister of State for Manpower Development and Social Welfare, while addressing the members of Bangladesh Chamber of International Recruiting Agencies at a meeting held in Dacca on Monday at a city hotel.

Presided over by Mr. M.A. Huq, President of the chamber the function was also attended by Mr A.B.S. Safdar Secretary of the Ministry of Manpower Development and Social Welfare.

The State Minister said the country received Taka 268 crore in cash as remittances from Bangladesh working abroad in 1979, in addition to their earnings reached Dacca through Wage Earners' Scheme.

Mr Khan said that a new manpower policy reflecting the national interest would be announced soon. In the meantime, he said the entire manpower activities had been reviewed and streamlined to evolve a new system aimed at expanding manpower export and labour market intelligence abroad and to eliminate indiscipline both in public and private sectors.

Referring to the activities of manpower export through private sector, the State Minister warned that nobody would be allowed to trade on job seekers' sufferings when the government had taken liberal view in granting licenses to recruiting agencies. No malpractices in public and private sectors would be allowed to continue any more, he said.

Mr Khan said, the new manpower policy would accommodate service charges, foreign tour and other related facilities for the recruiting agencies but at the same time they would also be liable for job security, service condition, remittances and welfare of the persons to be recruited by them.

Mr Khan called upon the recruiting agents to cooperate with government efforts and add fillips to the national economy through export of manpower.

In his presidential address, Mr Huq pin-pointed the difficulties faced by the recruiting agents and submitted 12-point programmes relating to manpower export.

C50: 4220

SEMINAR DISCUSSES FOOD PRODUCTION EFFORTS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 8 Oct 80 pp 1, 8

[Text] Agriculture and Forestry Minister Mr Nurul Islam on Tuesday said that the technological approach in the agricultural sector of the country should not be limited to a certain type of technology. Rather, he said, there should be a combination of intermediate and transferred technologies.

The Minister was speaking as chief guest at a seminar organised by the Institute of Diploma Engineers on "application of Technology and Second Five-Year Plan in the efforts for doubling food production".

He said that it was not possible to confine a technology within a particular geographical boundary and that was not desirable also. He said that Third World countries these days were demanding transfer of technology from the developed countries to the developing countries.

The seminar was participated by political leaders including Mr Saifuddin Ahmed Manik of Communist Party of Bangladesh, Halder Akbar Khan Rano of Bangladesh Workers Party, Mr Azizul Islam Khan of National Awami Party (Pankaj) and Mr Md Shahjahan of JSD. Mr Tozammul Hossain, President, Bangladesh Institute of Diploma Engineers presided over the seminar.

While speaking on the demands for introduction of indigenous technology in agriculture, the Agriculture Minister presented a difficult situation in this regard. "Either we have adopted higher technology in agriculture in an inappropriate time or there has not been large scale adoption of indigenous technologies in the country", he said.

Seed-Based Technology

Mr Islam said that at the moment efforts were being made to adopt a seed-based technology in the country and there had been some achievements particularly in the field of high yielding variety (HYV) seed development. The HYV paddy varieties developed at BRRI had received appreciation in many other countries and even in some countries the varieties had been adopted as national varieties, he said.

He said that agriculture which was the mainstay of national economy had drawn attention of people from all walks of life and they were thinking about the ways and means to develop the sector. This awareness, he said, manifested the determination of the nation to achieve the objective of increasing food production.

Referring to the objectives of the SFYP in agriculture sector, the Minister said that target had been set to increase food production to 20 million tons by 1984-85 by expanding irrigation facilities and utilising improved farm practices.

Canal Digging Programme

He said that canal digging programme through voluntary mass participation had proved to be "great extension work" in the agriculture sector. The programme, initiated by the person at the highest political level of the country, had been appreciated within the country as well as outside the country.

The outcome of the voluntary canal digging programme, he said, was that "the people on their own come to us ask for improved farm inputs and take up canal digging programme in their localities. Earlier, we had to go to them to pursue a development project of this kind" he said.

Mr Islam stressed the need for establishing increased number of agro-based industries in the country which he said would also generate employment opportunities.

He said, "under the seed-based technology, there is every possibility of increased cost of production and only selling of cereals would not meet the cost of production of food crops. A farmer will have to sell every thing -- right from the straw to bran -- to ensure the return of his cost of production.

For instance, he said, we produce some lakhs of tons of paddy. But we don't have any industry which can use rice bran". he said. He said that establishment of increased number of agro-based industry could facilitate the utilisation of the whole of a food crop.

He stressed the need for equitable distribution of produces in the entire production process. He said that the possibility of land reforms was brighter now than any previous time.

CSO: 4220

WEST GERMAN ECONOMIC TEAM ARRIVES IN DACCA

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 14 Oct 80 pp 1, 12

[Text] A seven-member high-powered economic delegation from the Federal Republic of Germany led by Dr. T. Klamser, head of the Asian Division of the West German Economic Cooperation Ministry, arrived in Dacca on Monday, says BSS.

The delegation, during its week-long stay, will discuss and finalise the FRG technical and financial assistance to Bangladesh for the current financial year as has been committed in the last meeting of the Aid Bangladesh Group in Paris.

The team will also review the on-going West German aided projects and undertake tour to some of the projects to see the progress of work there.

Besides meeting high officials of the External Resources Division and the Planning Ministry the members of the delegation will also call on the Finance Minister.

The negotiations between the two sides starts today (Tuesday) where the Bangladesh will be led by the Additional Secretary of the External Resources Division.

Talking to newsmen at the Kurmitola Airport, Dr. Kalmser indicated that the quantum of the FRG assistance to Bangladesh for the period would be around 170 million deutsche mark, equivalent to last year's amount.

He hoped that the talks would be held in a "very cordial and friendly" atmosphere and produce fruitful results.

The delegation also includes officials of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Finance.

The delegation was received at the Airport by senior officials of the FRD.

CSO: 4220

POOR ADMINISTRATION OF WHEAT SUPPLY ALLEGED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 12 Oct 80 p 12

[Text] About one lakh ten thousand maunds of flour are lying unsold in country's unauthorised flour mills, including Government owned ones, due to discriminatory policy adopted by the Government between flour mills and ration shops.

This was claimed by Mr. Mozammel Hussain, Secretary Bangladesh major and compact Flour Mills Association at a Press conference at a city hotel on Saturday.

Mr Mozammel Hussain said that till July, 1980, both the ration dealers (?) and flour mills used to get wheat from the Government godowns at the same rate. But from July, the Government fixed the wheat price at Tk 107 for ration dealers and Tk 115 for mill owners. He alleged that due to this discriminatory price, large number of wheat was being pilfered from sources like central storage depot, local storage depot, silo ships and food for work programme.

Mr Hussain said that these wheats were being crusted in about 500 unauthorised small flour mills and were distributed in the markets at cheaper rate. The authorised flour mills, therefore, face economic difficulties.

He said that the discriminatory policy had affected the Government owned mills also. In three government-owned flour mills in Dacca and Chittagong over 60 thousand maunds of flour were lying unsold since July, he said.

The Secretary of the Flour Mills Association alleged when the Government could not supply adequate wheat to the existing authorised mills, it was giving permission for setting up of new mills.

Mr Mozammel Hussain pleaded for closure of unauthorised mills and sanctioning of adequate quantity of wheat to the existing 87 authorised mills, removal of discriminatory price of wheat between mills and ration shops and raising of flour price from Tk 176 to Tk 185.

He alleged that the policy had already affected the flour mills adversely. Many of the mills had laid off, quite a good number of workers while some were facing closure. He said that since the existing mills were capable of meeting country's flour demand the Government should not permit establishment of more new mills.

CSO: 4220

BRIEFS

CHINESE ENVOY'S ACTIVITIES--The Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh, Mr. Liu Shu-
 quing, called on the Establishment Minister, Mr. M. Majidul Haq, at the latter's
 office in Dacca on Monday, says BSS. [as published] He stayed with the Minister
 over an hour and discussed matters of mutual interests. He also explained the
 administrative pattern in China and the goal of the Chinese people to modernise
 their country in the fastest possible way. Reiterating his country's full sup-
 port to Bangladesh Mr. Liu Shu-ying said the bonds of friendship existing between
 the two countries would be further strengthened. He assured of all cooperation
 for Bangladesh's economic progress. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in
 English 14 Oct 80 p 12]

GREETINGS TO YEMEN--President Ziaur Rahman has sent the following message of
 greetings to Mr. Ali Mohammed Nasser, Secretary General of the Central Committee
 and Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council of the People's
 Democratic Republic of Yemen on the occasion of the National Day of the People's
 Democratic Republic of Yemen: says a PID handout. On behalf of the Government
 and the people of Bangladesh and on my own behalf I extend to Your Excellency
 warm greetings and felicitations on the occasion of the National Day of the
 Democratic Republic of Yemen. I take this opportunity to convey our best wishes
 for Your Excellency's health and happiness and for the continued progress and
 prosperity of the brotherly people of Yemen. [as published] [Text] [Dacca THE
 BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 15 Oct 80 p 1]

SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATIONS--Seven organisations under different Ministries have
 been transferred to the Science and Technology Division, according to a PID
 handout. The organisations are: Medical Research Council, Ministry of Health
 and Population Control (Health Division); Bangladesh Standard Institution,
 Ministry of Industries Central Testing Laboratory, Ministry of Industries;
 Ministry of Railways Road Highways and Road Transport; Building Research Insti-
 tute Ministry of Public Works and Urban Development Environment Pollution Con-
 trol Board Ministry of Local Government Rural Development and Cooperatives and
 Jute Research Institute Ministry of Jute. [As published] [Text] [Dacca THE
 BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 15 Oct 80 p 12]

DELEGATION TO DPRK--Kazi Golam Mahboob, Vice-Chairman and Mr. Nazmul Huda, member
 of the standing committee of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) left Dacca for
 North Korea on Sunday last to attend the sixth congress of the workers party of
 North Korea. They will meet Chairman Kim Il Sung and other party leaders. The
 two BNP leaders are expected to return home on October 19 next. [Text] [Dacca
 THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 8 Oct 80 p 3]

GREETINGS TO SCHMIDT--President Ziaur Rahman has congratulated Mr. Helmut Schmidt Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany on his victory in the elections says an official announcement. In a message the President said: On behalf of the Government and People of Bangladesh and on my own behalf I extend to Your Excellency hearty congratulations on your victory in the elections. It is indeed reaffirmation of the People's confidence in you and your Government. We have every hope that under your able leadership the friendly people of the Federal Republic of Germany will continue their march towards peace progress and prosperity. We are looking forward to work in close cooperation with you and your esteemed colleagues for further expanding and deepening the excellent relations that happily exist between the two countries for the mutual benefits of our two peoples. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 8 Oct 80 p 1]

APPOINTMENTS, TRANSFERS--Syed Amir Khasru, Secretary, Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, has been appointed Secretary, Foreign Trade Division, Ministry of Commerce, according to an official announcement. Mr M. D. A. Siddiqui, Member, Joint River Commission, has been appointed Secretary, Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation. Dr. Mohammad Ishaque, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Forest, has been employed on contract as Additional Secretary in the same Ministry for a period of one year. Mr Mohammad Islam Chaudhury, Deputy Secretary, Establishment Division, has been appointed Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Sports & Cultural Affairs. Mr M. A. Maroof Khan, Senior Executive (SP), Petro-Bangla has been appointed Director, Petrobangla. The services of Major General M. A. Latif (Retd) are placed at the disposal of the Ministry of Public Works & Urban Development for appointment as Chairman, Dacca Improvement Trust on contract for a period of 3 years. Mr A. H. Nurul Islam, Chairman, Dacca Improvement Trust, has been appointed Officer on Special Duty, Establishment Division. Mr Md. Rahmatullah, Senior Administrative Officer National Institute of Public Administration, has been appointed Deputy Commissioner, Ranspur. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 11 Oct 80 p 3]

MINERAL DEPOSITS TOLD--The mineral deposits in the beach sands between Bandarmokam and Kutubdia in the Chittagong coast alone amounts to over 11 hundred tons, according to a recent survey, reports ENA. The value of the mineral deposit was estimated at 65 million US dollars at present market price. This was revealed in a paper titled 'minerals from the sea' read out at a national seminar on oceanography and marine resources in Dacca on Friday Mohammad Yunus, Managing Director of the Ashuganj Fertilizer Factory. The paper said it is believed vast deposits of minerals also occur in the beach sands of Neakhali, Patuokhali, Barisal and Khulna for which surveys have to be carried out. According to the paper the minerals discovered so far in the Chittagong district include Zircon, Rutile, Monazite and Ilmenite known as "heavy minerals" which have rich economic potentials. Of the total quantum of minerals found so far deposit of Zircon is estimated at 141.724 tons, Rutile at 67.164 tons, Monazite at 17.134 and Ilmenites at 907.607 tons. Zircon and Monazite are used in nuclear industry while Rutile in paint and Ilmenite in steel industry. The paper said the deposit of the minerals are comparable in quality with the deposit in Australia, India, Sri Lanka, USA, Brazil and USSR. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 11 Oct 80 p 1]

CPI(M) CANDIDATES FOR BYELECTION ANNOUNCED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 11 Oct 80 p 3

[Text] The Left Front committee's chairman, Mr Promode Dasgupta, announced on Friday the names of the Front-supported CPI(M) candidates for the six Assembly seats and one Lok Sabha seat in the coming by-election. November 23 has been tentatively fixed as the poll date.

The candidates are Mr Ajit Bag for the Serampore Lok Sabha seat; Mohd Kousek (Kumargang Assembly constituency, West Dinajpur); Mr Nazimul Huq (Kharba, Malda); Begum Ali (Sujapur, Malda); Mr Sibram Bose (Midnapore); Mr Shyamal Chakravarty (Maniktala); and Mr Bibhuti Dev (Dum Dum). All the candidates, except those in Maniktala and Dum Dum are secondary school teachers.

Mr Dasgupta said that the Marxist Forward Bloc had requested him to announce the list after consulting its representatives. There was no point in doing so as the FBM leader the late, Suhrid Mullick Chowdhury had won the Maniktala seat with the CPI(M) symbol. He had also read in newspapers that the CPI had announced its candidate for the Midnapore constituency. Things had undergone a radical change since the panchayat election in Midnapore when the CPI(M) made a clean sweep. The CPI's second position in the last Assembly election in the Midnapore constituency was not a valid ground for allowing it to contest the by-election there on behalf of the Left parties.

The CPI(M) leader said that the municipal elections had been postponed at the suggestion of the Union Home Minister, Mr Zail Singh. If the Congress (I) leader, Mr Ajit Panja's plea for holding the elections in November was upheld by the Central Government he could be charged with double-dealing.

The West Bengal unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party has announced that it will field its candidates for all the seats in the by-elections.

CSO: 4220

BENGAL LEADER SCORES ELECTION POSTPONEMENT

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 21 Oct 80 p 1

[Text] Mr Jyoti Basu said in Calcutta on Monday that he had taken a "serious view" of the postponement of the by-elections in West Bengal by the Chief Election Commissioner. The elections, in one Lok Sabha and six Assembly constituencies, were scheduled for November 23.

The Chief Minister said: "The decision of Mr S. L. Shakhder is an affront to the people and Government of West Bengal as the date had been decided in consultation with us. But while postponing the elections, Mr Shakhder did not think it fit to consult us".

Pointing out that the elections had been postponed to November 23 following objections from the Congress (I), the Chief Minister said: "It appears that so far as election dates are concerned, we have ceased to matter. It has now become the sole responsibility of the Chief Election Commissioner and the ruling party at the Centre".

Mr Basu added: "It is uncertain as to when the elections will be held. The harvesting season will be on in December; then there will be the census operations and our own Budget season". He said the Left Front would "tell the people of the undemocratic functioning of the Chief Election Commissioner and lodge a strong protest against his decision".

The Chief Minister said that by agreeing to postpone the elections, Mr Shakhder had undermined the prestige of his own office, "which is supposed to be an independent body".

Our Special Representative adds: The West Bengal Congress (I) president, Mr Ajit Panja, thinks that the postponement of the by-elections to the Assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies in the State is a victory for the people. Mr. Panja had urged the Election Commission to postpone the elections in view of alleged irregularities in the voters' list.

Mr Panja repeated his allegation on Monday that in each of the 294 Assembly constituencies in the State there were at least 10,000 "fictitious voters" and the names of about 10,000 genuine voters had been struck off the voters' list. There was no point in holding the elections unless these grave irregularities were rectified.

The Congress (I), he added, was prepared to face the voters any time when the electoral rolls were properly revised. The CPI(M)'s charge that his party was unwilling to face the electorate was baseless.

CSO: 4220

DECISION ON 23 NOVEMBER BY-ELECTIONS ANNOUNCED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 17 Oct 80 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Oct. 16.—The election Commission today decided to hold by-elections to the Assemblies in Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Orissa on November 23, reports UNI.

The Chief Election Commissioner, Mr S. L. Shahdher, told reporters that there were 14 vacancies in the six States.

The Commission had not taken any decision yet on holding the Lok Sabha and Assembly by-elections in West Bengal and U.P.

The U.P. Chief Minister, Mr V. P. Singh, wanted postponement of the by-elections to the Lok Sabha in view of the law and order problem in West Bengal. The PCC-I president wanted the elections postponed as November was the harvesting time.

Mr Shahdher said the commission was having discussions with the two State Governments in this regard.

In Rajasthan, there are at present no vacancies in the Assembly.

However, Mr Jagmohan, Punjab, who was chosen Chief Minister, has to get himself elected within six months as he is not a member of the Assembly.

Mr Shahdher said in case of any vacancy arising within two days, there would be a by-election in Rajasthan also on November 23.

He said notifications would be issued on October 21 for the elections in Haryana, Karnataka and Gujarat. For the remaining three States the notifications would be issued on October 24.

Mr Shahdher said there were vacancies also in the Assemblies of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura. But elections were not being held in the States for various reasons.

The Assam Assembly is under suspension and therefore there was no question of holding by-elections there. As regards the 12 Lok Sabha seats, a decision will be taken after the situation becomes normal in that State, Mr Shahdher added.

GANDHI ADDRESSES MAHARASHTRA PARTY MEMBERS

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 12 Oct 80 p 9

[Text] Bombay, Oct. 11.--The Prime Minister today asked the warring factions in the Maharashtra Congress (I) to mend their differences and stand united in the interests of the party and the nation.

Addressing a meeting of party legislators and members of Parliament from the State, Mrs Gandhi cautioned them not to fritter their energies in petty quarrels and asked them to maintain internal discipline.

Her appeal follows feud between the organizational and the Government wing of the State unit of the party, in which both the Chief Minister, Mr A. R. Antulay, and the MPCC(I) president, Mrs Premalabai Chavan, are involved.

The two factions have been publicly engaged in a war of words for some time and have also lodged oblique complaints against each other with the party high command, as well as with the Prime Minister.

Mrs Gandhi is stated to have held some discussions on party affairs with Mr Antulay and Mrs Chavan this morning. According to party circles, she expressed her distress over the bitterness between the two factions and has asked them to mend their differences.

In her address to the legislators, she asked the partymen not to rush to the Press with their grievances. The party discipline must be maintained, she warned them.

Later, while talking to reporters, Mrs Gandhi declined, however, to make any comment when asked if she was solving the organizational tangle in Maharashtra. She referred to national and international problems and asserted that her Government was doing its best to steer the country out of the difficulties. Her party's programme was direction-oriented, but the Opposition by its actions but hardles in the implementation of the programmes.

During the previous Government, India's prestige had deteriorated on the international front. Mrs Gandhi said her Government had immediately set things right and the country's prestige was restored.

On the domestic front, however, it took some time to clear the price muddle created by the previous regime. She lamented that the Opposition was using the price increase as a weapon for agitation.

Mrs Gandhi called for a greater involvement of the party workers in areas where it was essential to keep a vigilant eye on the implementation of programmes, especially in such matters as distribution of essential commodities like sugar and kerosene.

The Janata party when in power, could very well afford to indulge in factional wars because it had no intention to fight the elections again. However, Congressmen must remember that they would have to face the electorate after five years and hence, must observe party discipline and involve themselves in the people's activities instead of wasting their energies in quarrels, she remarked.

Mr Antulay welcomed Mrs Gandhi. Mrs Chavan was present at the meeting, held at Rai Bhavan.

CSO: 4220

LOK DAL SAYS GANDHI CONNIVES FOR RAJIV

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 13 Oct 80 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 12.--The Prime Minister's reason for promulgating the National Security Ordinance was "very simple and clear"--she wanted "to install Rajiv as her successor", according to Mr Charan Singh, Lok Dal leader.

"She has only one passion--obsession--in life, that of establishing a dynasty", Mr Charan Singh told India Abroad, a New York weekly. The former caretaker Prime Minister is now in the USA for cardiac tests.

"Now she will try to stifle all Opposition. The aim is to put her son in as her successor. To that end she will do anything". Mr Charan Singh said in the interview, published last week. "She is not interested in solving the problems of the country at all", he said. Mrs Gandhi's aim was to put an end even to peaceful demonstrations by the Opposition parties.

Quoting the official statement on the need for the Ordinance, he said it meant that if a party adopted any issue and started an agitation, however justified or peaceful, the provisions of the Ordinance could be enforced. "What she wants is an end to all public ventillation of grievances", he pointed out.

Mr Charan Singh also alleged that the Congress(I) won the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election in June by grossly misusing official machinery, and by intimidation. Before the election, hundreds of police officials, down to the constable level, were transferred on the basis of caste and were expected to function as Congress(I) supporters. "The lady herself (Mrs Gandhi) and her son (Sanjay Gandhi) had told the district officers, superintendents of police and magistrate directly that they had to ensure the success of Congress(I) candidates--otherwise, they would not continue in their posts", he said.

Asked why the Janata Party Government failed as a viable alternative to the long Congress rule. Mr Charan Singh replied that those who constituted it proved inadequate for the task. But "to the extent that I was a part--no matter how good I may be individually--I must share the blame".

He said that he was "wronged" all the way by the others in Janata. Singling out the Janata Party chief, Mr Chandra Shekhar, as one of the chief architects of the party's break-up, he said that his election as the party president was "the biggest mistake we made". He was less harsh in judging Mr Desai and called him "impossible."

Recalling the circumstances after the fall of Mr Desai's Government, he indicated that his experiment of trying to run a Government with Mrs Gandhi's support was regrettable. On the eve of the crucial test of strength in Parliament on August 21, 1979, Mr Kamal Nath, M.P., visited him and offered him full support if the court cases against Sanjay Gandhi were dropped. He rejected the offer. Mr Devaraj Urs had also tried to intercede on behalf of Mrs Gandhi, he claimed.

Mr Charan Singh said Mr Desai had not been interested in prosecuting Sanjay Gandhi "because they (Mr Desai and Mrs Gandhi) did not want to send each other's son to jail".

In this context, Mr Charan Singh also disclosed that Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, BJP leader, had told him that "we were ready to support you". Mr Vajpayee had said that the offer of support was sent through Mr Biju Patnaik, but it never got to him.

He charged that every party, including the Communist Party, accepted election funds from the capitalists--the Communists because they believed in large industries.

In the interview, Mr Charan Singh said that the Press "is behaving without the Emergency as if there weren't". He alleged that Mrs Gandhi bribed journalists and managed to have editors who did not toe her line sacked or transferred. The Press was owned by capitalists and though there were some independent journalists, the majority were unable to express themselves freely.

CSO: 4220

'SANJAY'S MEN' SAID TO BE EXCLUDED FROM CABINET

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 21 Oct 80 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 20.--A notable feature of the additions Mrs Gandhi has made to her Council of Ministers is that she has not taken in anyone from among those who were close to Sanjay Gandhi. The names of a host of people who used to be associated with the Prime Minister's second son, and most of whom were aspirants, have been omitted.

Neither is there a single name from among the Youth Congress (I) M.P.s who were so exercised after Sanjay Gandhi's death that they held a convention and invited Mrs Gandhi, so that their cause might not go neglected.

With these changes Mrs Gandhi has made, both in the Council of Ministers and in the party organization, a deviation from the Sanjay line is vaguely noticeable. One of his close associates, Mr C. P. N. Singh, was also shifted from the all-important Defence portfolio to Science and Technology. [as published] Also, Sanjay Gandhi would probably not have approved of at least one of the three AICC(I) general secretaries appointed by Mrs Gandhi or agreed to his elevation from the position of a joint secretary.

The fact remains that the people Mrs Gandhi has chosen in making changes in both the government and the party are almost all from the senior age-group. Though the veterans whose inclusion in the Government was at one time thought likely, such as Mr Mohan Lal Sukhadia, also do not figure in the list.

It is evident that in reshuffling the Council of Ministers, she has tried to accommodate different interests in the States. Mrs. Gandhi has brought in Mr Shankar Rao Chavan as a full Minister. The idea is obviously to give representation to the Maratha lobby, which needs to be placated because of the erosion of the Congress (I)'s hold over the Maratha community, with Mr Y. B. Chavan and Mr Sharad Pawar arrayed against the ruling party.

However, the nomination of Mr Shankar Rao Chavan is hardly likely to fulfil this objective and it is stated that even Mr A. R. Antulay, Chief Minister of Maharashtra, who has failed to consolidate the Maratha lobby, would have liked someone like Mr Y. J. Mohite to be chosen because of his deep roots in Maratha politics. Mr Shankar Rao Chavan, who joined the Congress (I) only recently, does not have the required political impact, it is stated.

Other hopefuls from Maharashtra, such as Mr Rafiq Zakaria, have not been included, nor Mr Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy from Andhra Pradesh.

A political trouble-shooter, Mr Bhishma Narian Singh, has been given the additional charge of Works and Housing. Mr P. C. Sethi has been given back Petroleum and Chemicals, which he had ardently wanted. It is also interesting that Mr A. P. Sharma, who was holding the dual charge of Shipping and Transport and Civil Aviation and Tourism, has eventually been entrusted with the charge of the latter, although he has originally been a Shipping and Transport Minister from the beginning.

CSO: 4220

AITUC PRESIDENT THREATENS ORGANIZATION SPLIT

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 13 Oct 80 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 12.--Mr S. A. Dange, president of the All India Trade Union Congress, has threatened to split the organization, according to sources close to the Communist Party of India. The official central leadership of the CPI has found itself in a cleft stick following Mr Dange's threat to divide the AITUC at its conference in Visakhapatnam at the end of this month.

Mr Dange, who has ceased to be chairman of the CPI but is still a member of its national council, has offered the party's leaders two alternatives. He wants the present office bearers of the AITUC not to be changed in the elections in Visakhapatnam. Or else, he has decided to declare his AITUC as the "real" one and split the CPI's central trade union organization.

According to informed sources, the CPI's official leadership has rejected Mr Dange's compromise formula, and is preparing for a show down with him and his dissident group in the party, at Visakhapatnam. CPI leaders have conveyed to Mr Dange that they will accept and want him as the president of the AITUC. It will be thus far and no more. Their argument is that his daughter, Mrs Roza Deshpande, cannot remain as an office bearer of the AITUC. She has been expelled from the party and has gone about forming a separate all India Communist Party. What has disconcerted the CPI central leadership is Mr Dange's "silence" over his daughter's and party activities.

The CPI leadership has convened a special session of the national council, the party's highest policy making wing in Vijayawada four days before the scheduled Visakhapatnam conclave of the AITUC to decide a strategy to contain Mr Dange and his dissident followers in the party.

In the event of a split in the AITUC, the CPI unit will be headed by Mr Indrajit Gupta, Lok Sabha member and veteran trade unionist. The new general secretary will be Mr Raj Bahadur Gaur of Hyderabad.

CSO: 4220

WRITER DISCUSSES DARJEELING POLITICAL ISSUES

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 11 Oct 80 pp 1, 16

[Article by: Sudhen Dey]

[Text] The inclusion of the Nepali language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution is no longer a burning question in the three hill sub-divisions of Darjeeling. The language issue has not been replaced by two growing demands. First, an extremist demand for formation of a separate State, proposed to be known as Gorkhaland, in Darjeeling and adjoining Nepali speaking areas. And the second, a moderate demand for regional autonomy for Nepali speaking people in Darjeeling within the State of West Bengal.

Indeed, recognition of the Nepali language and regional autonomy issues had long been the twin demands of the local political parties. Of these, the language issue became the main demand as it received the support of all sections of local non-political people. Now that the inclusion of the Nepali language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution has become a mere question of time following the assurance given by the Prime Minister to the Akhil Bharatiya Nepali Bhasa Samiti, the local political parties have become vociferous on their demand for regional autonomy or separate Statehood for Nepali speaking people.

The Prime Minister, during her recent visit to Darjeeling, rejected the demand for a separate State for Nepali speaking people. She pointed out that other local hill tribes held different views on the issue. A delegation of local Lepchas, Bhutias and Tibetans reportedly told her that they were feeling more and more isolated in Darjeeling because of the increasing influx of Nepalese to the area.

Although Mrs Gandhi is yet to apply her mind to the demand for regional autonomy, she did not hesitate to express her strong reservations on it to members of the delegations who met her at Raj Bhavan in Darjeeling. The D. P. Rai faction of the All-India Gorkha League and the CPI(M) submitted memoranda to the Prime Minister demanding regional autonomy for the Nepali speaking people within West Bengal.

The CPI(M)'s support to the regional autonomy demand has given an added dimension to the issue. The CPI(M) feels that an autonomous region of Darjeeling should be formed with a regional council to fulfil the economic, cultural and political aspirations of the Nepali speaking people of the area within the State of West Bengal. The council to be elected on the basis of proportional vote, should have powers to make laws on subjects connected with the economic social and cultural life of

the people in the area. The council should be given the power to raise its own finance by way of taxes. Mr Jyoti Basu said it was not a new demand by the party. The undivided Communist Party of India had been making it since 1957, and the CPI(M) since its formation.

It is learnt that the demands for recognition of the Nepali language and formation of a separate Gorkhaland were first mooted by Damber Singh, the founder of the Gorkha League, in the forties. After Singh's death, Mr D.P. Rai became the leader of the Gorkha League and he toned down the statehood demand to one for regional autonomy. After Cooch Behar became a part of India, some Rajbanshi leaders started a movement for the formation of a separate Kamatpur State outside West Bengal. Later, this movement was converted into the Uttarkhand movement under the leadership of Mr Panchanan Mullick. In the fifties, the Gorkha League supported the Uttarkhand movement.

Later, the Gorkha League gradually dissociated itself from the Uttarkhand movement and became closer first to the Left parties and then to the Congress. Some of the important leaders of the Gorkha League left the party in 1977. At present, the Darjeeling district secretary of the Gorkha League, Mr Madan Tamang, is supporting the demand for Gorkhaland, while Mr Rai is holding on to his earlier demand for regional autonomy.

Last week, when Mr Rai went to meet the Prime Minister at Raj Bhavan. Mr Tamang did not accompany him. Some hours earlier Mr Rai was seen listening to Mr Jyoti Basu's speech at Chowkbazar. Mr Basu was then exhorting the Centre to take quick measures for inclusion of the Nepali language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution and for granting regional autonomy to the local people. Political circles do not rule out a secret understanding between the CPI(M) and the D. P. Rai faction of the Gorkha League on the regional autonomy issue.

It is felt that the compulsions of the prevailing political situation might force Mr D. P. Rai, who is the general secretary of the party, to come to an understanding with the CPI(M). Since 1977, the CPI(M) has expanded its base in the hill areas of Darjeeling. The membership of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions in the tea garden areas in North Bengal increased from 8,000 in 1977 to 27,000 in 1979-80.

The party has also captured the leadership of the Akhil Bharatiya Nepali Bhasa Samiti, which is a joint platform for realization of the language demand. The Left Front Government's unanimous resolution in the West Bengal Assembly urging Constitutional recognition of the Nepali language helped improve the party's image in the hill areas. The old leadership of the Bhasa Samiti has been changed, and one of the former leaders of the Gorkha League, who left the party in 1977 and came closer to the CPI(M), has now become an important executive of the Bhasa Samiti.

Now that the language issue is almost settled and the official faction of the Gorkha League, under the leadership of Mr D. P. Rai, and the CPI(M) are making the same regional autonomy demand, the dissident faction of the Gorkha League and the former leaders of the Bhasa Samiti have joined hands with some expelled members of the Congress (I) to form the Darjeeling Separate State Ad Hoc Committee. Apprehensive of the CPI(M)'s growing influence in the hill areas these sections have gone a step forward and are demanding a separate State for the Nepali-speaking people outside West Bengal. Political circles believe that the CPI(M)'s regional autonomy demand has taken the wind out of the sail of the separatists' demand.

The separatist groups, which have formed the Darjeeling Separate State Ad Hoc Committee, include the Gorkha National Liberation Front, Prantiya Morcha and the Tarun Gorkha. In August, some former leaders of the Bhasa Samiti and representatives of these extremist groups met at Sukiapokhri, when the Ad Hoc Committee was formed. Foreign patronage behind the formation of the Ad Hoc Committee is not ruled out by the local authorities. Speakers at the meeting felt that recognition of Nepali language could no longer be their primary demand. The first need was a separate State for the Nepali-speaking people, if the language and culture of the Indian Nepalese were to be protected, they felt.

In its latest letter to the Prime Minister, the Gorkha National Liberation Front alleged that the Indian Gorkhas were being "politically tortured" all over the country. It requested it to return them their land. Under no circumstances, they were going to remain under the economic and political exploitation of Bengal, it added. While pledging loyalty to the nation and to the Prime Minister, the GNLF has issued slogans like "Bengal is not the master of our land" and "Long live our Gorkha land."

Lest these demands for a separate State for the Nepali-speaking people damage its cause, the Bhasa Samiti recently issued a statement dissociating itself from these separatist calls. "As the issue is not clear the Samiti has nothing to do about it", the statement said. No doubt, the Bhasa Samiti's statement has created a setback to the separate Statehood demand.

Meanwhile, the current unchecked influx from adjoining Nepal to the hill areas in Darjeeling is creating political and social tension there. The people are making unauthorized encroachments not only on the tea gardens, but also in Darjeeling town turning the "queen of the hill stations" into another shabby district headquarters of West Bengal. The presence of the migrants has created resentments among the old labourers in the town, as the former are working at a much lower rate than the prevailing wage. Some of the separatist political groups are encouraging such influx for gaining a political advantage. They are also raising misleading economic slogans to gain the support of the unemployed Nepalese youth.

It is felt that the present permit system for travel between India and Nepal is not strict enough to check the exodus from Nepal. Besides, there is at present inadequate arrangements for manning the long border between the two countries. The police are incapable of keeping a check on unauthorized entry through this sprawling border. It is suggested that a special force, like the Border Security Force, should be deployed for manning the border.

CSO: 4220

JANATA CHIEF WARNS AGAINST AUTHORITARIANISM

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 11 Oct 80 p 13

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 10.--The Janata Party chief, Mr Chandra Shekhar, today warned against the growing authoritarianism which was aimed at destroying human rights, civil liberties and parliamentary democracy.

He called for a joint common forum of all right-thinking people cutting across political horizons, "everybody and anybody who is in a position to fight". He urged the Bar Associations student bodies, trade unions and journalist associations to make common cause in view of the fact that the credentials of Mrs Gandhi's Government to misuse authority "are not under doubt".

The Janata Party chief said Mrs Gandhi's efforts to put "everybody in jail" would "fail miserably". The people would not allow her to do what was possible in 1975.

Mr Chandra Shekhar said that utter bankruptcy and total non-performance of the present Government was now being blamed "on our democratic political system". The ruling party leaders' utterances, from the Prime Minister downwards, attributed their failures to the "failure of the system". They forget that the same system had been used by the previous Janata Government to stabilize prices. It made the judiciary independent, removed the shackles on the Press and amended the obnoxious clauses in the Constitution.

Under the cover that the system was unworkable, the ruling party leaders had started attacking the courts. Leaders question the importance of the judiciary. Under the cover that the system had become discredited, every effort was being made by the leaders to arm themselves with more and more powers for the repression of the disillusioned and dissatisfied people.

He said the National Security Ordinance provided the grounds for detention. It barred lawyers from appearing before the review boards. The Ordinance enabled the Government to issue fresh detention orders after the revocation or expiry of a previous order. It armed the Government with arbitrary powers to shift a detainee from one jail to another and had suspended certain clauses of the Jail Manual.

He said the power the Central Government had acquired to declare any area as disturbed, not only struck the federal structure of the Constitution, but also created alarm in the minds of the people about its intentions. It was "totally ridiculous" to say there was a national crisis. "The only crisis is that while the society is healthy, it is ruled, by a terribly sick and awfully ill Government.

PUNJAB MAY ARREST KHALISTAN ACTIVISTS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 16 Oct 82 p 4

[Text] Chandigarh, Oct. 15--Self-styled secretary-general of the Government of Khalistan (GOK) and a dozen other office-bearers of this organisation are likely to be arrested if the mood of some Punjab Government authorities is any indication.

Another view was to ignore them and their activities treating them as deserving no Government attention.

According to authoritative sources, the question of ways to deal with this embarrassing situation, prevailing for the last over six months, has now received active consideration of the Government in Punjab. In fact, besides a few scores of hardened criminals, the arrests of these politically important GOK enthusiasts could be the first to be made under the National Security Ordinance. The issue has already figured about four times, both specifically and obliquely, at meetings of top Government officials of the home and police departments and Chief Minister Darbara Singh, it was told.

Mr Sandhu, a goody-goody fiction writer-cum-journalist-turned religio-political leader of a small section of the Sikh masses, was sitting as the secretary-general of GOK in one room of the Guru Nanak Niwas, a sarai in the premises of Darbar Sahib at Amritsar. Such fairly well-off Sikhs who want the idea of Khalistan at least to linger on either as an embarrassment to the Akalis or as an embarrassment to the State Congress-I Government come and donate heavily to Mr Sandhu, it was learnt.

Before initiating any action against Mr Sandhu and other office-bearers of GOK in India, the State Government agencies, however, wanted to make sure about the chain reaction such an action could generate. For this the State CID was learnt to be making a detailed study. It was feared that the present race between Akali Dals headed by Sant Longowal and Jathedar Taiwandi, trying to rally the Sikh masses could, in fact, complicate the matters. Another problem was that self-styled chairman of the GOK, Dr Jagjit Singh Chauhan, was currently abroad to, what is called, establish diplomatic missions of the organisation.

One view in Government was to ignore the whole thing as a non-serious issue deserving no attention at all. But then open processions demanding Khalistan saying India was not their 'mother' and continuing the prospects of a separate Khalistan in or outside the territory of India were very embarrassing for the State Government. The unabated flush of propaganda about Khalistan, both supporting and condemnatory, was another problem, it was felt.

KASHMIR COMMUNAL PROTECTION LAW UPGRADED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 16 Oct 80 p 4

[Text] Srinagar, Oct 15--A brief but turbulent autumn session of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly concluded here today after it adopted the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 1980 prescribing enhanced punishment for communal offences and seeking corresponding changes in the Criminal Procedure Code and the State penal law to provide for speedy case trial by special judges.

The Bill seeks to replace an ordinance promulgated by Governor L K Jha on 23 August to arm the administration with deterrent powers for dealing with attempts aimed at undermining communal harmony in the State. [as published]

The ordinance was promulgated in the wake of Moradabad incidents and its violent reaction here.

The Bill does not include widely criticised harsh provisions of the ordinance and excludes newspapers from the ambit of enhanced punitive measures.

Curtailement of bail powers of trial courts as well as the High Court, enforced through the ordinance, has also been done away within the Bill. The ordinance stipulated that the special court could release an accused on bail only after the High Court's confirmation. This rider has been deleted from the provisions of the Bill.

The ordinance empowered the Government to forfeit offending publications, including newspapers and their concerned printing presses, through the enlargement of the scope of Section 153 A of the Ranbir Penal Code. This Clause 2 does not find a place in the Bill.

The Bill was passed after the Government accepted certain amendments proposed by opposition members.

Several opposition speakers alleged political motivation behind this legislation, and claimed that the Government was seeking to camouflage its failures under this pretext. They apprehended misuse of these extra-ordinary powers, and cited instances of political misuse of the Public Safety Act by the Government.

They also questioned the advisability of adopting these drastic measures in the State saying that a false impression was sought to be created about the communal situation here. They asked the Government to justify its action by citing number of cases tried under the provisions of the existing law.

CSO: 4220

NEW ANDHRA PRADESH CABINET SWORN IN

Madras THE HINDU in English 17 Oct 80 p 1

[Text] Hyderabad, Oct. 16.

Nineteen members of the Chenna Reddi Cabinet, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Assembly and a newcomer figure in the list of 22 Ministers sworn in here today.

This is the first stage of Ministry-formation by Mr. T. Anjiah, who became Chief Minister on October 11.

The entire group of 15 dissident Ministers in the previous ministry whose campaign resulted in the change of leadership, finds a place in the Cabinet.

The Speaker, Mr. Divi Kondiah Chowdhary and the Deputy Speaker, Mr. K. Prabhakara Reddi (both erstwhile dissidents) also have been included.

Four Ministers who backed Dr. Chenna Reddi and a new comer, Mr. Challa Rambhupal Reddi (the son-in-law of President, Mr. N. Sanjiva Reddi) have been inducted Ministers.

The portfolios would be announced tomorrow.

Mr. Anjiah told pressmen that he would include new faces in the second stage.

The Chief Minister indicated that he would then take in more persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Tribes and backward classes.

The Ministers sworn in today are: Messrs. G. Rajaram, N. Amaranath Reddi, N. Bhaskara Rao, P. V. Chowdhary, C. Dass, K. Obul Reddi, P. Seshavataram, G. Sriramulu Naidu, Agisam Veerappa, Bhavanam Venkatarama Reddi, Yedlapati Venkata Rao, Ahmed Sheriff, T. Hayagrivachari, A. Madan Mohan, B. Ramadev (all former dissidents), Divi Kondiah Chowdhary, K. Prabhakara Reddi (the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker), Baga Reddi, G. Venkataswami and Koneru Ranga Rao (till recently supporters of Dr. Chenna Reddi) and Mr. Challa Rambhupal Reddi and Mrs. Sarojini Pulla Reddi.

The seven members of the Chenna Reddi Ministry left out are: Messrs. N. Janardhan Reddi, M. M. Hashim, P. Ganga Reddi, A. Vengala Reddi, K. V. R. S. Padmanabha Raju, Rosaiah and Nizam Vali.

The Chief Minister announced that all the 22 would have Cabinet rank. Including the Chief Minister there are 13 Ministers from the Andhra region and 10 from the Telengana region.

The idea of having a Deputy Chief Minister from the Andhra region was apparently given up, and Mr. Anjiah said they (apparently Central leaders) did not discuss the question and the problem (of choosing one) did not arise.

While there were nine Reddis in Dr Chenna Reddi's cabinet of 27, there are eight in the present Cabinet of 23. There are four from the Kamma community and five from the backward classes, three Harijans, two Brahmins and one Muslim.

The swearing in ceremony took 55 minutes. The Governor Mr. K. C. Abraham, administered the oath of office and secrecy. Messrs. Ahmed Sheriff and Baga Reddi, took their oaths in Urdu, eight Ministers in Telugu and 12 in English.

CSO: 4220

NAGALAND GOVERNMENT SAID TO BE STABLE

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 21 Oct 80 p 3

[Text]

MR Vamuzo, the Nagaland Minister for Finance, Revenue, Election and Rural Development, told reporters in Calcutta on Monday that there was no threat to the present Government in his State, following the defection of a Minister and a MLA of the Naga National Democratic Party to the Congress(I) on Sunday. He claimed that these defections were not unexpected and the Government was stable.

The Minister said his Government was in full control of the situation and the State was totally peaceful. He claimed that there was no agitation in Nagaland against "foreigners" and said that the present Government would not allow such an agitation to gain momentum. According to him, underground Naga activities had ceased in the State. He said the

pro-Phizo and the anti-Phizo factions of the underground Nagas were now fighting among themselves outside the State near the Burma border. He also criticised the Congress(I) for its attempts "to topple the Government".

Mr Vamuzo said the Nagaland Government intended to adopt a new policy for rural development which would be implemented through the village councils and development boards. Each household would receive Rs 100 as grant-in-aid from the Government in all the 1,000 villages. He said the Rs 1.10-crore scheme had been submitted to the Planning Commission, which had assured him of financial assistance. He also hoped that the integrated pulp and paper mill in Nagaland could begin by the end of this year.

CSO: 4220

JOURNALISTS POLLED ON COMMUNAL TENSION CAUSES

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 16 Oct 80 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 15.--An overwhelming majority of journalists see politicians' hand in most social tensions in the country and feel that the Government obstructs their reporting, reports UNI.

This is the finding of a study by a group of researchers at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication on the "Communicators' perception of social tensions."

The study is based on interviews with 517 working journalists drawn mostly from newspapers and news agencies in 15 different centres across the country.

According to the report, most of the journalists interviewed saw caste and communal tensions as the most prevalent forms of social tensions in the country.

They broadly agreed that these tensions arose from "tradition-bound attitudes, lack of education, economic disparities and fear of dominance."

Nearly three-fourths of them held the view that the existence of social tensions among different sections of society in a country like India was natural.

However, the study showed that "the role of politicians was perceived to be more instrumental than the other causes of social tensions."

Most journalists--83.3%--felt that politicians exploited "existing realities...to create tensions in society to further their narrow political ends." [as published]

About their own perception, the study showed that more than half of the respondents--about 59%--thought they usually gave a balanced account of such situations.

And nearly 48% felt that newspaper reporting helped control situations. This feeling was more prevalent among news agency reporters than among newspapermen.

Less than a tenth of them thought their reporting helped escalate trouble. About 43% did not see how it made any difference one way or the other.

However, 90% agreed that information on such events must not be withheld from the public as that only makes room for rumour-mongering.

"Most of them maintained that the news media should not lose sight of the larger interests of society and at the same time treat facts as sacred", the report said.

Nearly two-thirds of the journalists did not think that most reporting of riots and tension was exaggerated while a fourth felt it was so. The rest were unsure.

Nearly 65% said the Government obstructed their reporting such events and they expressed themselves "against any kind of Government directives" on coverage.

More than a third of them also saw nothing wrong with naming the groups involved in such situations in their stories. Nearly 57% however, were against it.

The IIMC group, which carried out the survey, was headed by Mr J. S. Yadava, professor and head of the institute's communication research department.

CSO: 4220

CPI(M) LEADER URGES FIGHT AGAINST COMMUNALISM

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 11 Oct 80 p 12

[Text] CPI-M general secretary E M S Namboodiripad on Friday urged all democratic and secular sections of the people to immediately move into action to fight the communal virus, reports UNI.

Mr Namboodiripad told a "Convention on Communalism" organised by the Democratic Teachers' Forum in New Delhi that it was not only important to bring harmony among the different communities but to unite every section of the society on the basis of secular ideals.

Describing communal riots as a fratricidal war among the working people. Mr. Namboodiripad said such riots wrecked the unity of the workers and always hit them worst. He said in the Moradabad riots Hindu communalists used the most oppressed section of the workers, the Valmiki municipal labourers, against the Muslim brassware workers. Riots everywhere had helped the owners divide workers on communal lines, he said.

He said teachers, journalists and intellectuals should strengthen the unity among the workers and the democratic movement to root out communalism.

Noting that the role of majority and minority fundamentalism had been underestimated in India, Mr Zahoor Siddiqi said: "Riots cannot be avoided operationally, but an ideological battle has to be waged to control them."

Prof Musheer-Ul-Hasan, in his address said the Congress-I, whose secular credentials were in doubt, cannot be expected to solve a problem like that of communalism.

Referring to the CPI-M's "very significant" role in Kerala and West Bengal in maintaining communal harmony, Mr Hasan said the party had a lot to do in other parts of the country for removing the "misunderstanding" about the minorities. "This misunderstanding often gave rise to communal feelings," he observed.

A resolution passed at the end of the convention urged the secular sections to ensure that Dussehra and Id are not utilised by communal elements to incite the people. It called upon the teachers, students and other sections of the intelligentsia to join hands with trade unions and other mass organisations to prevent the repetition of communal riots.

Teachers from the Universities of Delhi, Benaras, Jamia Milia, Aligarh and Jawaharal Nehru University attended the convention.

CSO: 4220

UNIONISTS OPPOSE MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 11 Oct 80 p 1

[Text] Political and trade union leaders in the Capital on Friday called upon the leftist trade unions to form a joint front to save the nation from economic ruin caused by the multinational business corporations.

Speaking at a public meeting on "self-reliance not sincere, BHEL facing closure", the leaders blamed the Government for not allowing Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited to develop to its full stature.

Mr H.N. Bahuguna, former Petroleum and Chemicals Minister, said the Government had wrong notions about public sector functioning. Its statement that the specification of the equipment used in captive plants was wrong.

The coal and electricity shortage, Mr Bahuguna said, quoting examples of the functioning of another public sector undertaking, was further compounded by large-scale theft from pit heads. And this, he said, was done "in connivance with those in the power structure", at the Dhanbad-Jharia coal belt.

All India Defence Employees' Federation president S M Banerji made a strong appeal to the leftist unions to jointly fight the multinationals menace which was eating into the vitals of the Indian economy.

The Government's policy and the people's attitude would have to change radically to save India from economic disaster, Mr Banerji said.

All India Trade Union Congress general secretary K G Sriwastava felt the public sector was not a white elephant, but certain elements in the country did not want wither BHEL or indigenous technology to develop.

In an era, when all the political parties crowed about bringing "socialism" to the masses, public sector would be the right vehicle to bring about the desired change, the AITUC leader felt.

The meeting was organised by the BHEL Workers' Association of Hardwar.

CSO: 4220

LOK DAL DEFECTOR SAYS PARTY DISINTEGRATING

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 18 Oct 80 p 7

[Text]

New Delhi, Oct. 17.--The Lok Dal is "fast disintegrating", according to Mr Narendra Singh, M.P., a former secretary who recently resigned from the party.

At a Press conference he addressed yesterday along with Mr Jagbir Singh, another former Lok Dal leader, Mr Narendra Singh said already more than 7,000 members of the party in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra had resigned. According to him, "most of the Lok Dal MPs and MLAs were mentally outside the Lok Dal, though physically they were still inside the party".

Asked to comment on reports that he was proposing to join the Congress (I), Mr Narendra Singh said some Congress (I) leaders had contacted him and Mr Jagbir Singh. At the same time, he pointed out, he had talks with Mr Chandra Shekhar, Janata Party leader, Mr G. C. Bhattacharyya of Mr Bahuguna's party, and Mr L. K. Advani, Bharatiya Janata Party leader. He said there was no question of forming a new party as far as he was concerned.

He called the Press conference to announce his resignation as general secretary of the Kisan Kamgar Sammelan. Mr Jagbir Singh also resigned as treasurer of the sammelan.

The two leaders, who had resigned from the Lok Dal last months had since been expelled from the Kisan Kamgar Sammelan by its president, Mr Devi Lal, on October 7. [as published] They, however, claimed that they continued to be members of the Kisan Sammelan as it was a non-political body.

Mr Narendra Singh said he also continued to be a member of the Kisan Sammelan Trust from which he could not be removed. They said that any attempt to change the character of the Kisan Sammelan and bring it under the Lok Dal would be resisted by them.

KARNATAKA CHIEF CALLED 'MAN OF ACTION'

Madras THE HINDU in English 17 Aug 80 p 16

[Text]

Mr. Gundu Rao is no longer the brash youngman with the swagger, gifted with an impressive anatomy and dreamy eyes underneath bushy eyebrows, anointed leader on January 12, 1980, with an aura round him as the trusted lieutenant of the Prime Minister and a confidant of her late son.

The 43-year-old Chief Minister—the youngest perhaps to warm the seat after a meteoric political rise in hardly 10 years from humble beginnings as a small town politician from the plantation district of Coorg—is a much-chastened man under the weight of the growing cares of office. An extrovert, he is gradually becoming withdrawn, in the process of trimming himself to maturity. His wavelength with Delhi is considered to be excellent conducive to the development interests of the State. Veteran politicians were surprised when Mr. Gundu Rao was chosen for the coveted office held by stalwarts like K. C. Reddy and Mr. K. Hanumanthaiya in Old Mysore and Mr. S. Nijalingappa, Mr. B. D. Jatti and Mr. Devaraj Urs, since the State's reorganisation in 1956.

Only seven months ago, he was entrusted with the leadership without his seeking it when his predecessor, Mr. Urs, laid down office under the ignominy of his party's crushing defeat in the Lok Sabha mid-term poll. The member representing Somwarpet in Coorg who happened to be the leader of the Congress(I) Opposition in the Assembly, was the natural choice without even the semblance of a formal election.

It is a typical case of poetic justice. Mr. Urs had sacked Mr. Gundu Rao, who was then his Cabinet colleague in charge of Transport, on the ground that the latter did not switch his loyalty,

pledged to Mrs. Gandhi, in the tumultuous days of his break with the present Prime Minister, in June 1979. At one time in the early days of their association, Mr. Urs had acknowledged publicly that among his associates, only Mr. Gundu Rao and Mr. F. M. Khan (also from Coorg) had stood by him through thick and thin.

The first few months in office for Mr. Gundu Rao appeared like a bed of roses and he basked in the limelight of the euphoria of power with tongues wagging about his excessive indulgence with felicitatory functions and almost ritualistic public professions of his loyalty to Mrs. Gandhi and Sanjay Gandhi.

Temptations to placate regional sentiment became irresistible for Mr. Gundu Rao. Kannadiga enthusiasts raved as he swore by the sons of the soil theory. It was not long before he found the going tough when senior Chief Ministers of other States opened up broadsides. He realised that 'discretion is the better part of valour'.

One of his first administrative acts was the dismantling of the power structure built up by Mr. Urs in the shape of a plethora of corporations and boards. He followed it up with the abolition of the system of granting extension of service or re-employment of government servants after superannuation. Then came the big shake-up of the administrative apparatus, with large-scale transfers of officers at the highest and other levels.

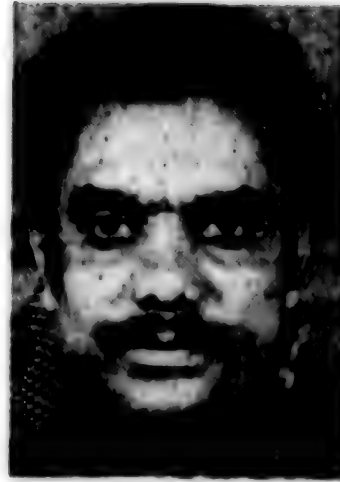
His party legislators were aghast when his Government resumed the old memo against officers bringing political influence to get their transfers cancelled.

While the new Chief Minister is a mixture of delight and horror

to the permanent services, his critics within and outside the ruling party feel that Mr. Gundu Rao has toyed with peripheral issues long enough and it is time he grapple with the burning issues of bread and butter.

Mr. Gundu Rao is being accused of wielding the 'big stick' in handling the still smouldering North Karnataka agrarian unrest and the anti-price rise agitation. No wonder he buckled under the Opposition fury and announced a series of conciliatory gestures to the farmers, including judicial inquiry into specified cases of police firing.

Mr. Gundu Rao has been faced with the dilemma of fulfilling his commitment to the 'defectors' who form his party majority by giving them representation in his Cabinet and, in the bargain, incurring the wrath of his detractors who are up against the 'defectors'. But, otherwise the situation is all in his favour as he has acquired the reputation of a man of action who can be depended upon to deliver the goods.



CSO: 4220

KASHMIR SPEAKER ELECTED, OPPOSITION ABSTAINS

Madras THE HINDU in English 15 Oct 80 p 9

[Text] Srinagar, Oct 14--The ruling National Conference candidate, Mr Parmanand, was elected Speaker of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly today by a majority vote.

All the Opposition parties--Congress(I), Janata, BJP, Lok Dal, Congress(U)--and independents abstained from voting.

Mr Parmanand, a former Deputy Minister in the Congress Government, belongs to a Scheduled Caste.

His name was proposed by the Chief Minister and Leader of the House, Sheikh Abdullah, and seconded by Ghulam Mohiuddin Shah, a member of the ruling party.

The Deputy Speaker, Mr Janak Raj, was in the chair.

Mr Parmanand was led to the Chair by Sheikh Abdullah, Chaudhuri Mohd, Aslam, leader of the Congress-I group, and Mr Harbans Lal Bagotra of the Janata.

The day's sitting began 75 minutes late with the Opposition staging a "symbolic boycott" of the election.

Chief Minister Sheikh Abdullah met the leaders of the Opposition groups and persuaded them to take part in the election. Following "certain assurances" from him Opposition members entered the Assembly hall and the election began.

Dr Dhanraj Bhalgotra (Janata), the Opposition-sponsored candidate for the Speaker's office, withdrew his nomination, paving the way for the uncontested election of Mr Parmanand.

A spokesman of the Opposition groups said later that the "symbolic boycott" of the election was in protest against the ruling party's bid to "ride roughshod" over the Opposition, especially in the choice of the Speaker. The Opposition should have been consulted by the ruling party before it announced its candidate, he added.

PTI reports: The current session of the Assembly might be adjourned sine die within the next two or three days. It may again hold a short session in December in Jammu to dispose of pending business, including some official bills introduced today. The proposal was made by the Opposition leaders, when the Chief Minister met them and the Sheikh agreed.

BREZHNEV ABSENCE AT MOSCOW DINNER AN 'INSULT'

Madras THE HINDU in English 15 Oct 80 p 8

[Editorial: "Absence That Speaks Louder Than Words"]

[Text] If the eight-day state visit of the President, Mr N. Sanjiva Reddy, to the Soviet Union has come to be regarded as memorable only for the as yet unexplained absence of the Soviet President, Mr Brezhnev, from the return banquet hosted by India, Moscow is solely to blame. For it was an unforgettable slip by a nation that sets great store by diplomatic niceties and protocol. In the circumstances, Mr Sanjiva Reddy was correct in showing his displeasure by staying away from the banquet he himself was to have hosted and from his engagements the next day. Efforts by the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Gromyko, to make amends by calling on the President later and Mr Brezhnev's own warm send off at the airport in Moscow served only partially to assuage the feelings. The insult still lingers.

What exactly prompted Mr Brezhnev to keep away after accepting the invitation remains unclear and political commentators as well as the public have been left to their surmises. Broadly, three different theories have been put forward to explain the absence. Of these, one that has been given out by those who are sympathetic to the Soviet Union and keen that no harm should befall Indo-Soviet ties is clearly unconvincing. This is that Mr Brezhnev could not attend the dinner only because of the sudden death of the wife of the Politbureau member, Mr Tikhanov. The bereavement because of which Mr Tikhanov was unable to attend the banquet would not in the normal course have prevented Mr Brezhnev from attending a state dinner hosted by a visiting head of State. And were the reason so simple and straightforward, nothing could have prevented the Soviet leaders from telling Mr Sanjiva Reddy that and avoiding all the embarrassment which ensued.

Those who are suspicious of Moscow's intentions have a second explanation to offer: that the Soviet leader deliberately wished to slight India. This could be because he was annoyed by India's persistent, even if private, pleas for an early withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and its more recent extolling the spirit of independence of the Afghan people. Or, simply because he did not consider the President's visit important enough to get away from his preoccupation with the Iran-Iraq conflict and other engagements. The third theory put forward by those who are eager to play down the incident is that it was just a case of innocent bungling by the Soviet protocol officials, with a corresponding slip up by the Indian Embassy in Moscow serving to compound the embarrassment. It appears that

Mr Brezhnev did not attend the return banquet hosted by the former Prime Minister, Mr Morarji Desai, during his visit to Moscow, which was in keeping with his practice of not attending banquets hosted by leaders who are not heads of States. And, so the story goes, he assumed that he did not have to attend Mr Sanjiva Reddy's banquet too--a mistake that the Soviet protocol officials failed to correct. The Indian Embassy in Moscow which had an inkling even the previous day that Mr Brezhnev would not be attending failed to convey the message to the President, with the result that when he was told of the Soviet leader's inability to attend hardly three hours before the banquet, he was justifiably furious.

Whether it was a deliberate slight or just an avoidable blunder, the absence and the subsequent conduct of the Soviet Union in not even caring to offer an explanation carry a clear message that New Delhi cannot afford to ignore. This is that Moscow has come to take India for granted both in bilateral relations and in regard to its stand in international forums and, for all its declarations of friendship, does not quite respect the sensibilities of the Indian people. The Soviet Union cannot certainly be blind to the fact that, while the Indian stand on Afghanistan does not coincide with its own, New Delhi has gone out of the way--too far out of the way, in our view--to help it out in international forums such as the United Nations and in the second Commonwealth Heads of Government Regional Meeting (CHOGRM II). The recent declaration of Mrs Gandhi in Darjeeling that India was not tilting towards the Soviet Union is welcome, and it is to be hoped that a concrete demonstration of this intent would be seen in all spheres of foreign policy. Mr Brezhnev's absence which speaks louder than numerous and effusive declarations of friendship has served as a useful, even if embarrassing, reminder of where exactly India stands in Moscow's scheme of things.

CSO: 4220

INDIA

SOVIET NAVAL SQUADRON ARRIVES IN COCHIN

Madras THE HINDU in English 17 Oct 80 p 1

[Text] Cochin, Oct. 16.

A Soviet Naval squadron with the missile cruiser "Vladivostok" as the command ship arrived in Cochin on Thursday on a goodwill visit. [as published] The squadron was expected to leave Cochin, the only port of call on either Indian coast, on Saturday.

Rear-Admiral G. I. Semenov, Commander of the Squadron, in a statement read out at a press conference on board the "Vladivostok" spoke of the dangers posed by the "persistently increasing military presence" of the U.S. in the Indian Ocean and "the serious threat to the security of countries of the Indian Ocean posed by China's military aspirations". [as published]

The statement said that "Pakistan, motively supported by the U.S. and China has been transformed into a military stronghold. [as published]

The unusually long and extensive statement issued in connection with a "goodwill visit" by a Naval Squadron provoked embarrassing questions which the Admiral was required to parry'. [as published]

In the circumstances, he was asked questions aimed at suggesting that his Squadron may be headed for the troubled waters off the Iraq-Iran war theatre and he replied that "the Squadron was sailing to the scheduled route and would return to the Soviet Union".

The Admiral's reference to the recent visit of President Sanjiva Reddi as a "landmark of everlasting friendship of the people of India and the Soviet Union based on the principles of mutual respect and sovereignty", was seized to highlight the publicised absence of Soviet President Brezhnev from a banquet hosted by the Indian President. The Admiral, whose replies were translated by the Soviet Press Attache, said he was concerned with the affairs of the Navy.

CSO: 4220

FOREIGN MINISTER REPORTS ON MEXICAN, CUBAN VISITS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 12 Oct 80 p 3

[Text] Mexico City, Oct. 11 (PL-Pool). India and Mexico have signed an agreement on supplies and exchange of technology for exploitation of oil deposits during the three day official visit to this country by External Affairs Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao.

Mr Narasimha Rao, who returned to New York early yesterday after visiting Cuba and Mexico, said that the Government would "seriously consider" on breaking the "barrier of distance" between India and Latin America to strengthen bilateral relations and promote trade and commerce.

He hinted that another shipping line might be started soon between the two hemispheres, supported, if necessary by Government subsidy. "If the distance problem is overcome, we can hope for bright economic relations with the Latin countries," he said.

While in Cuba, he had two prolonged sessions of discussions with President Fidel Castro and in Mexico. He had talks with President Jose Lopez Portillo, Mr Portillo will visit New Delhi in January and attend the Republic Day parade. His visit would provide further opportunities for talks between the Mexican President and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Mr Rao reportedly discussed with Mr Castro problems concerning the non-aligned movement of which Cuba is currently chairman. New Delhi has agreed to host the next conference of foreign ministers of non-aligned countries early next year.

His talks with the Mexican leaders related to energy problems in all aspects including, supply of Mexican oil, and mutual cooperation in oil exploration technology, manufacture of newsprint from Bagasse, solar energy research and research in agriculture.

Mr Narasimha Rao said his talks with President Lopez Portillo and Mexican Ministers of Finance and Patrimony (natural resources) were very useful. "They are impressed with our processes of economic planning and wanted our planning experts to visit their country and exchange views," he said. There would be exchange of visits of planning experts. Dr Manmohan Singh, member Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, would be sent. The bilateral agreements would be finalised and got ready for signatures when the Mexican President went to New Delhi.

CSO: 4220

INDIA

HUNGARY SEEKS JOINT VENTURES WITH INDIA

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 23 Oct 80 p 5

[Text] Hungary has offered to collaborate with India in the manufacture of a wide range of semi-finished and finished aluminium goods, diesel engines for road vehicles and axles for heavy tractors and automobiles, reports UNI. [as published]

Giving this information, Mr L. Gergely, permanent representative of the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce in India, said Hungary had embarked on the development of industry on a selective basis.

This was because his country practically did not have any industrial raw material except bauxite. Even the coal available there was not of good quality. There was also labour shortage.

Mr Gergely said a small country like Hungary could not manufacture all items on an economic scale. It had, therefore, to buy raw materials and a number of products regularly on a long-term basis. [as published]

Mr Gergely said there was great scope for developing trade relations between the two countries. Hungary's trade turnover with the Federal Republic of Germany was about two billion dollars, but with India it was only 40 million to 50 million dollars.

He said the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce in Delhi had organised lectures, round table talks and panel with discussions on different Industrial and agricultural programmes with the assistance of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry during this year. [as published]

Mr Gergely said the second meeting of the Indo-Hungarian Joint Business Council will be held in New Delhi on 14 November. Though the meeting aimed at coordinating the efforts of the partners to encourage industrial, technical and financial cooperations, the occasion would be utilised for introducing two major Hungarian enterprises.

Mr Gergely said the Hungarian Aluminium Corporation and its research engineering and prime contracting centre, Alutervfki would present the latest technical developments of the Hungarian Aluminium industry, specially in the field of the

production of semi-finished and finished goods, their relevant technologies and application techniques. [as published]

Another company, the Raba Works, would present its products including diesel engines for road vehicles, and axles and machineries for the industrialisation of animal breeding. [as published]

He said these industries could enter into collaboration agreements for manufacturing and technical cooperation with State and private enterprises in India.

CSO: 4220

INDIA

MISSION IN MALDIVES BECOMES EMBASSY

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 16 Oct 80 p 1

[Text] Male (Maldives), Oct 15 (UNI)--India today upgraded its mission here to an embassy.

The move, making India the second country to have its embassy in Male, was welcomed by a spokesman of the Maldivian government.

Only two other countries, Libya and Pakistan, have diplomatic missions here.

Maldives External Affairs Ministry under secretary Mohamed Shareeff told a visiting UNI correspondent that the step would have far-reaching effects in strengthening relations between the two countries and facilitate further economic cooperation.

Mr Brij Kumar has been appointed India's ambassador here. He is expected to take charge early next month.

Maldives, which is a group of about 2,000 islands in a 800 kilometre chain spanning over 5,100 square kilometres, has reportedly been the target of super powers efforts to woo it because of its strategic importance. Its southern tip is only about 450 km from the United States base of Diego Garcia.

Mr Shareeff said that Maldives had been trying to develop friendly relations with all those countries "who respect our territorial integrity and acknowledge the 200 mile economic zone".

Senior Maldives leaders had recently made visits to other countries in this connection. External Affairs Minister Pathula Jameel, who recently met British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington, was scheduled to visit China, Japan and Singapore this week, he added.

Maldives has supported the United Nations declaration on demilitarisation of the Indian Ocean.

According to western observers both the United States and the Soviet Union maintain an average of 25 ships each in the area. The French also maintain a permanent force at the Djibouti and the reunion islands. Australia and West Germany have for the first time sent their ships in this area.

Strategically, Maldives has a very important air base at Gan in its southern Addu Atoll, which is its nearest point to Diego Garcia. But the base has not been used since Britain abandoned it in 1975.

The Maldives Government, which follows a non-alignment policy, has refused to give this air base to any country.

CSO: 4220

INDIA

CUBAN EMBASSY RELEASES RAO VISIT DETAILS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 11 Oct 80 p 3

[Text] Cuba has highly evaluated the role of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and the Indian Government in safeguarding the principles of the non-aligned movement as well as defending world peace.

This was conveyed by Interim Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cuba Ricardo Cabrisas when he held official level talks with External Affairs Minister P V Naraanba Rao during Mr Rao's recent visit to Cuba. A detailed report in this regard was available from the Cuban embassy in the Capital which issued a press release on the subject on Friday.

Mr Rao was warmly received by Cuban President Fidel Castro to whom he delivered a message from Mrs Gandhi. The talks between Mr Castro and Mr Rao brought out the similarity and identity of views between the two countries on world problems.

The two Foreign Ministers, in the course of their discussions, recognised the importance of the non-aligned movement for resolving the major problems of the world. They jointly expressed confidence that the decisions taken by the Sixth Summit Conference of heads of States and Governments of Non-Aligned Countries held in Havana would be implemented in full, and pledged to contribute their mite for the purpose.

The External Affairs Minister conveyed his appreciation of the efforts of the Cuban Government and Fidel Castro in realising the objectives of the non-aligned movements.

Besides Fidel Castro, Mr Rao had talks with Vice-President of the Council of State and Ministers of Cuba Carlos Rafael Rodrigues, Cuba's Minister for Foreign Trade Ricardo Cabrisas, Minister-President of the State Committee for Economic Collaborations Hector Rodriguez Lompart and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Pelegrin Torres.

Mr Rao extended an invitation to the Cuban Foreign Minister to visit India and it was accepted.

CSO: 4220

MINORITIES PANEL CHAIRMAN REPORTS ACTIVITIES

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 11 Oct 80 p 5

[Text] Dr Gopal Singh, chairman of the Central high-power panel on minorities and weaker sections, on Friday suggested that the laws governing the waqf and Gurdwara assets should be amended to ensure that their wealth was properly used for economic and social welfare of their own communities, reports PTI.

Speaking about the tasks before the panel, Dr Gopal Singh told newsmen here that it would be its concern to find out in the course of its "on the ground inquiries" in 500 blocks across the country as to how the minorities, Harijans and other down trodden communities were really benefited by the various schemes, concessions and facilities earmarked for them.

As for the communal problem, Dr Gopal Singh said it was not so much because of religious rivalries and conflicts as it manifested fighting for the "economic cause," he remarked.

Preliminary Report

Dr Gopal Singh said the panel proposed to submit its first preliminary report by the end of this year. Initially, the panel was required to submit its findings in three months but the Government had since extended its term to enable it finish its work "as soon as possible."

The panel had been constituted by the Government after the Congress-I was voted back to power, to fulfil an electoral promise of the party, he added.

Dr Gopal Singh said although the panel was still to finalise its preliminary findings, it would be making far-reaching recommendations in consultation with MPs, Government institutions, district level functionaries and authorities and people at large.

Dr Gopal Singh refuted the charge that the minorities, especially the Muslims and Harijans, had not benefited from the Government's fiscal policies.

In places like Moradabad, Aligarh, Kanpur and other towns in North India where communal riots had occurred repeatedly, Dr Gopal Singh pointed out, it had been observed the Muslims, particularly, had benefited "tremendously."

CSO: 4220

INDIA

INDIA TRIES TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH ASEAN

Madras THE HINDU in English 21 Oct 80 p 9

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 20--Amidst its other preoccupations, India is making a sustained effort to improve relations with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) which have been strained by the recent recognition of the Heng Samrin regime in Kampuchea.

The relationship which was otherwise quite good has lately soured to such an extent that these countries have started differing from India even over minor issues to make their feelings known to it.

Apart from lining up with China and others in opposing the Soviet-sponsored and Indian-supported move to unseat the Pol Pot regime at the United Nations, the ASEAN group went out of its way to vote against the Indian candidate during the UNESCO executive board elections.

Asia has six seats on the 45-member UNESCO board and three fall vacant every second year for the four-year term. But what happened during the recent election when India managed to get through for another term, has caused some concern among the policy-makers in Delhi. Though Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal voted for it, China, Japan and the ASEAN group opposed India's candidature in a strange line-up against its re-election.

As the voting was by secret ballot, it is not possible to say precisely which countries had voted for or against India. The Philippines, for instance, had promised its support. But from the available information it appears that the other ASEAN countries had gone back on their earlier assurances.

It would not have normally mattered much if the ASEAN countries did not vote for India for whatever reason. In the present context, however, their negative vote has acquired some collective significance because of the suspicion that they had chosen to oppose India's candidature as a token of their continued disapproval of the Indian recognition of the new Kampuchean regime.

Farfetched Idea

The forthcoming visit of President Suharto of Indonesia offers a timely opportunity for a candid exchange of views on the Kampuchean issue if only to ensure

that it will not continue to strain India's relationship with ASEAN despite the mutuality of their regional interests.

The idea is that there should be enough understanding of their differing approaches so that they could at least agree to disagree without doubting each other's motives.

During the recent regional Commonwealth conference in Delhi, the Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, mooted the idea of a nationalist Government in Kampuchea headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk that would not be hostile to China and beholden to Vietnam.

The idea seemed rather far-fetched at that time when almost all the regional Commonwealth countries with the sole exception of India were so totally opposed to the Vietnamese intervention that in the process of refusing to recognise the Heng Samrin regime they were willy-nilly prepared to put up with the Chinese backed Pol Pot faction.

Sophisticated Alternative

A new sophisticated alternative that is being privately mentioned in diplomatic exchanges is that the ASEAN countries which do not want to condone the Vietnamese action could de-recognise the loathsome Pol Pot regime if they were not prepared to deal with the Heng Samrin Government.

At least Australia has indicated that it is ready to follow this middle course to extricate itself from the absurd position of having to back Pol Pot while opposing Heng Samrin.

If the ASEAN countries, too, follow this course, it should be possible to establish enough common ground with other regional countries like India in finding an acceptable solution to the Kampuchean problem.

As the Prime Minister's special envoy, Mr. Swaran Singh, told the Indonesian leaders during his visit to Jakarta that the mere fact that India had recognised the Heng Samrin Government, applying its own norms for dealing with such regimes, need not come in the way of exploring the possibilities of a wider settlement in the larger interests of peace and stability of the region.

The present indications are that this theme will be carried forward during the talks with President Suharto to pave the way for similar discussions with the leaders of other South East Asian nations.

And the hard-headed ASEAN leaders like Mr. Lee Kuan Yew who are equally interested in finding an honourable way out of this intractable situation without loss of face to China or Vietnam,

INDIA

INDIA TO ADMIT 1,500 TIBETANS FROM BHUTAN

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 23 Oct 80 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 22.--India will accommodate half of about 3,000 Tibetan refugees who face deportation from Bhutan, a Tibetan spokesman said today, reports UNI. "On our appeals, the Indian Government has agreed to allow 1,500 Tibetans into this country," Mr Tashi Wangdi, the Dalai Lama's representative in New Delhi, said.

He said most of the 1,500 migrating to India were farmers and likely to be given land in different States.

Officials in the Union Rehabilitation Department, said a decision on the area for settling the refugees was yet to be taken.

Nearly 3,800 Tibetans have lived in Bhutan for 20 years, but were recently asked by the Bhutan Government to either become Bhutanese citizens or quit.

Mr Wangdi said nearly 800 had agreed to take up Bhutanese citizenship.

He thanked the Indian Government for accepting 1,500 refugees and said the Dalai Lama's Dharamsala headquarters was trying to find homes for the remaining 1,500 in other countries.

He said the 45-year-old exiled Buddhist leader had recently written to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees for assistance in settling the rest.

Mr Wangdi said Canada, Sweden, Switzerland, New Zealand, Australia and the USA were some of the countries approached by the Tibetans.

"We have reason to hope for a positive response from some of these countries by the time we have moved 1,500 to India, which should be around next February," Mr Wangdi said.

"We are naturally trying to rush it. We are hard pressed since most of our people have sold away their shops and crops and are finding difficulty in supporting themselves."

Most Tibetans in Bhutan were engaged in small trades or farming in Thimphu and nearby areas and by the Bhutan Government's own admission, generally peaceful and law-abiding.

The problem surfaced last year when the Bhutanese mission here approached some Western embassies with a request to accept the refugees whom Bhutan might otherwise force back into Tibet.

The Bhutanese authorities claimed they were compelled to do this to prevent a possibility of the Tibetans "creating a nation within Bhutan".

Tibetan spokesmen on the other hand called this a "mere pretext" and hinted that the Bhutanese had been motivated actually by the Chinese desire to unsettle the refugees.

Precipitation of the matter was prevented by King Jigme Singye Wangchuk who bade the Bhutanese Government to defer forced repatriation and give the Tibetans time to find an alternative.

There are at present about 80,000 Tibetan refugees in settlements in Karnataka, Himachal, Arunachal, Ladakh, Sikkim, Orissa. [rest of line omitted] where in the country.

CSO: 4220

NEWSPAPER SOCIETY MEETING OPENS IN BANGALORE

Madras THE HINDU in English 15 Oct 80 p 7

[Text]

BANGALORE, Oct. 14

The President of the Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society, Mr. Shantilal A. Shah, today drew attention to "serious onslaughts" on the freedom of the press in some places in recent times.

In his presidential address at the 41st annual general meeting of the Society, Mr. Shah referred to the blockade last month of the offices of two major newspaper groups in Bangalore by Youth Congress (I) workers and said, "The offices were besieged, their staff locked in and the publications prevented from coming out."

A few days later, he said, the Editor of a Hyderabad Telugu fortnightly was manhandled.

Advertisement Rate

Welcoming the Government's decision to pay uniform advertisement rates based on circulation to both English and Indian language newspapers, Mr. Shah called for an immediate change in the present system of the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) determining these rates. The Government should accept the commercial contract rates established in the market to eliminate any scope for arbitrariness or grievance on this score, he said.

The advertisement-news ratio fixed at 40:40 by the Government was untenable on many grounds. The revenue accruing from 40 per cent space given to advertising would not be enough to buy all the news, newsprint, raw materials and other services.

Expressing concern over the steep rise in the price of newsprint and its erratic supply, Mr. Shah urged the Government to make long-term contracts for import of five lakh tonnes of newsprint every year. This would be both economical and an adequate safeguard against erratic supplies.

He wanted the IENS and the Indian Languages Newspaper Association to evolve a cooperative scheme to import newsprint to avoid the difficulties of late arrivals and the papers' frantic efforts to procure newsprint for day-to-day consumption.

Congratulating the Centre on the reduction of import duty on high-speed letter press and Webbed offset rotary and other machines, Mr. Shah hoped

the Government would further liberalise the import policy to help the newspaper industry go in for modernisation in a big way to make it more competitive in cost of operation and quality of production. He wanted complete removal of import duty on printing machinery to help the industry and also the readers.

Sales Tax Exemption

Mr. Shah thanked the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi for taking a personal interest in the Society's representation to exempt the small and medium newspapers from the heavy incidence of sales tax on newsprint and hoped that the Government would consider large newspapers also for similar exemption since they too were a tool of mass education and awareness.

Some State Governments, according to his information, were favourably considering the Centre's suggestion of sales tax exemption. The Madhya Pradesh Government had made necessary provision in the current budget.

Mr. Shah said newsprint price, both imported and Vepa, had been hiked by around Rs. 800 per tonne which was "unfortunate".

He said the Society had submitted a detailed note to the Press Council of India suggesting improvements in the present system of newsprint import, assigning a limited role to the State Trading Corporation.

STC Criticised

Some of the alternatives suggested, he said, were total decanalisation of supplies or the STC contractive import of supplies but leaving the follow-up action to IENS or newspapers setting up newsprint cooperatives on the French model.

Mr. Shah regretted that the role of the STC in arranging timely supplies of newsprint and their shipments had been far from satisfactory. However, as a result of the Society's persistent efforts the STC had agreed to look into complaints and had appointed a task force for the purpose. The Society was vigorously following up the complaints at the highest level, he said.

The Society had also persuaded the STC to "re-look" financial arrangements.

for the import of newsprint on high seas sales basis by reducing the margin required to be furnished by newspapers before their orders were booked.

As a result of the Society's efforts, the Railway Ministry had also agreed to conduct joint test loading of both Nepa and imported newsprint and to revise suitably the minimum weight condition on the basis of test report.

Bank Aid

Mr. Shah said the Society was able to persuade the Industrial Development Bank of India to extend direct financial assistance to the newspaper industry on a selective basis without any ceiling on paid-up capital and reserves. It also successfully persuaded the Finance Ministry to instruct the banks to undertake a review of need-based credit requirements of newspapers and allow additional finance over and above the drawing limits in operation.

Paikar Award

Mr. Shanul Shah said the newspaper industry would be adversely affected if the final recommendations of the Paikar Tribunal were implemented in toto.

Small and medium newspapers particularly did not have the additional funds to pay the wage scales recommended by the Tribunal.

The employees unions' attitude is also not helpful. This is precisely why no consensus could be reached at the tripartite talks held last month. In desperation, we had to leave the whole thing to the Government's best judgment," he said.

There were instances where the industry had paid ex-gratia payments to the employees, he said. But the employers could not appreciate the

gesture. "The industry is always ready to co-operate in settling issues. At the same time, it expects the workers to be responsive," he added.

Mr. K. L. Sarkar of Anand Bazar Group of Publications was elected President of IENS. Mr. Mammen Verghese of "Malayala Manorama" was elected Deputy President and Mr. Ramesh Chandra Jain of "Times of India" group, Vice-President. Mr. Vishwa Bhandhu Gupta of "Daily Tej" is the Treasurer.

The executive committee members are: Messrs. A. K. Sarkar (Ananda Bazar Patrika), M. L. Ganguli (Jugantar), Yunus Dehlvi (Shama Magazine), C. A. Narayan (Sunday Standard), C. R. Irani (The Statesman), K. Narendra (Daily Pratap), P. K. Roy (Amrita Weekly), K. M. Mathew (Malayala Manorama Weekly), Ram S. Tarnaja (Economic Times), Shantilal A. Shah (Gujarat Samachar), B. S. Adityan (Rani), K. P. Agarwal (The Pioneer), Ramesh Chander Chopra (Hind Samachar), Tuhin Kanti Ghosh (Northern India Patrika), J. C. Jain (Mirror), J. K. Karan (Free Press Journal), M. S. Kirloskar (Kirloskar Magazine), M. S. Madhusoodanan (Kerala Kaumudi), R. K. Misa (Indian Express), N. Murali (THE HINDU), S. Radhakrishna (Andhra Sakshita Varo Patrika), T. V. Ramanath (Pesampadam), Arup Kumar Sarkar (Eab), C. C. Shah (Janabhooni), R. R. Sharma (The Tribune), K. N. Tink Kumar (Deccan Herald), Mahendra Mohan Gupta (Kanchan Prabha), Narendra Thwari (Nai Dunia), R. Lakshminpathy (Dinamalar), R. M. Cama (Bombay Samachar), V. S. Thirumala (Parag), S. L. Khurana (Hindustan Times), Banudev Ray (Sunday's Statesman), Virendra Kumar (Mathrubhumi), Mrs. Saroj Goenka (Andhra Prabha), and Miss Ula C. Parulekar (Swara).—PTI.

REPORTER REVIEWS SITUATION IN NORTHEAST

Madras THE HINDU in English 12 Oct 80 p 2

[Text] While the general situation in the North-East appears relatively calm, there are still indications that the present spell of peace may prove to be fragile. The Union Government at any rate is taking no changes. The most disturbing development concerns Meghalaya.

A section of the tribal Khasi population in Bangladesh to has set up a Khasi Upajati Samity along the lines of the TUJS in Tripura. The move to organise the Khasis politically apparently was spearheaded by a few American missionaries based in the area bordering Meghalaya.

The KUS is trying to establish sympathetic contacts with the Khasis in Meghalaya and to work out a rapport with the Mizo National Front of Mizoram, which demonstrates that its plans are ambitious enough to over reach international frontiers. Bangladesh Khasis are said to be impressed with the past record of insurgency of the MNF in particular, among the groups active against the Central Government and the plains people in the North-East.

Manipur, too, continues to cause concern. The Army has been informally given authority to launch massive combing operations in the area shortly and preparations for this are under way. A full-fledged division is being posted in the area to be headed by an officer yet to be appointed.

The law and order situation would continue to remain a local police responsibility.

Recently, one unit of the Manipur Rifles was removed from Imphal and a few other units also sent to less sensitive areas, because of their alleged involvement with the insurgents. This is an allegation levelled against the police also. Of the two groups associated with such activities, the People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK) and the Peoples Liberation Army (PLA), it is the latter which has made more of the running recently.

Its aggressive posters and slogans, removed by the law-enforcing agencies, reappear almost immediately and it has made considerable inroads among youths and students.

Part of the ammunition held by these groups is known to come from areas in Burma and China. The rebels take their sanctuary mostly in Burma or Bangladesh.

In Mizoram, the MNF is continuing to collect taxes from certain sections of people because top leaders of the group were known to favour the idea of a fund collection, while continuing other operations. Nevertheless, there has been a marked drop in the level of rebel activities in recent weeks, a fact that has probably emboldened some people not to extend their earlier hospitality to the insurgents, hospitality born out of compulsions.

The recent delays in the ongoing political negotiations have been utilised as a breathing space by Bri. Sailo, Chief Minister, and there is said to be a new element of assurance in his performance these days.

An improvement in the general political situation is the fact that stability of a sort seems to be returning in Burma, despite the armed conflict of September 27 between two groups. Gen. Ne Win's amnesty call for local insurgents seems to be making its impact. The situation in Bangladesh, however, continues to be unpromising.

The present embargo on flow of oil from the Assam refineries to the rest of the country is probably about to be lifted. The main reason is the somewhat unexpected continuance of the Iran-Iraq conflict. Despite assurances about its supplies from other countries, the Union Government has approached the Soviet Union in case emergency supplies become necessary.

According to information reaching local politicians from Delhi, the Centre has made it clear to the Assam anti-foreigner agitationists that it would no longer tolerate any continuation of the oil embargo. Unless the agitators lift their pickets during the next few days, stern action would become inevitable, the responsibility for which would rest squarely with the agitators themselves.

The Assam agitation leaders, on their part, have assured the Union Government that they were prepared to cooperate with the country in view of the emergency. This can be counted as a positive domestic consequence of the Iran-Iraq conflict although it would hardly enhance the image of the Union Government in Assam.

The bid by the agitationists themselves to get the schools and other educational institutions reopened points to the exhaustion from which they must be suffering after waging a relentless struggle for nearly a year at an unusually strident pitch.

If this is seen as a minor improvement in the situation in Assam, the feeling of encouragement does not extend to the other territories.

CSO: 4220

INDIA

ASSAM STUDENTS PUBLISH BOOKLET ON PACTS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 13 Oct 80 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 12.--The All-Assam Students Union has described as "fallacious" the view that the migrants who came to India before March 25, 1971, could, not be sent back, reports PTI.

The Indira-Mujib pact of 1972 or the joint declaration of March 19, 1972 did not say anything about migrants or refugees, AASU said in a booklet brought out on the Nehru-Liaquat Pact and the Indira-Mujib treaty.

However, the joint statement of February 8, 1972, issued at Calcutta dealt with refugees, AASU stated.

In the statement, the former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, promised to ensure, by every means, the return of all the refugees who had taken shelter in India since March 25, 1971.

It had been interpreted by some to mean that the migrants who had come to India before that date could not be sent back, the booklet said.

"This interpretation is fallacious". The context showed that the question of migrants who entered India prior to March 25, 1971, was not contemplated by the parties. The discussions centred round urgent and immediate problems facing Bangladesh at that time, AASU said.

"The position of the migrants who illegally entered India before March 25, 1971, is no better than those who did so after that date, as both categories of migrants are not Indian citizens", AASU felt.

The union said that statements and declarations did not have the same status and binding force as treaties, agreements and pacts.

Even treaties, agreements and pacts, if inconsistent with the Constitution, might not be binding, it contended.

Meanwhile, leaders of various parties and groups in the Assam Assembly who have been invited by the Union Home Minister, Mr Zail Singh, to a meeting at New Delhi tomorrow, have sought its postponement by a day in view of the cancellation of today's Indian Airlines flight from Gauhati.

Mr Golap Borbora, leader of the Janata Legislature Party, told reporters in Gauhati tonight that they were expected to leave for New Delhi tomorrow.

Mr Zail Singh invited leaders of the Janata Party, Congress, CPI, CPI(M), SUC, RCPI and PTCA to ascertain their views on the foreign nations issue before the expected final round of talks with the Assam agitation leaders tomorrow.

Our Correspondent in Jalpaiguri adds: The Jalpaiguri authorities expressed concern over "fresh arrival" of Bengali families at Alipurduar from different parts of Assam. According to senior Government spokesman, the district already received nearly 15,000 people who had come in Jalpaiguri from different parts of Assam since November last year and are residing at present in three Government camps--Jasodanga and Dangi in Jalpaiguri, and Jorai in Cooch Behar.

The refugees who were living on the railway platform at Alipurduar were shifted to Jorai camp.

CSO: 4220

NEW CHECK SYSTEM PROTECTS EMIGRATING WORKERS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 16 Oct 80 p 1

(Text)

NEW DELHI, Oct 16.—The Government today announced a new system of checks under the Emigration Act. It requires passport holders planning to leave the country on or after November 1 to get emigration clearance which is to be endorsed on their travel documents.

The Chief Passport Officer to the Government, Mr Mangal Moorthy, has in fact advised passport holders to obtain these endorsements straightaway from the nearest passport office. Forms made available with the airlines and travel agents must be filled before

submitting the passport for endorsement.

One of the Government's major considerations in introducing the new system has been the numerous complaints of harassment of Indian labour, cheated by bogus employment agents at home, or by unscrupulous employers abroad. There have been any number of incidents in which skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled Indian labour has found itself stranded in foreign lands.

The altered system will have two distinct advantages for this section of emigrants. An emigrant can

know well in advance whether his papers are in order, thus eliminating the chances of last-minute disappointment or of being duped by unscrupulous travel agents or employment bureaus. It will also help eliminate the inordinate delays caused at airports because of the time taken by this class of passengers in obtaining clearance from the Protector of Emigrants.

In the case of ordinary passengers leaving the country on short visits, the endorsement would obviate the need for them to join the queue at the Inspectorate of Emigration counters at the airports to get the clearance. According to a Foreign Office spokesman, the airport checks at the inspectorate counter often caused delays and a number of complaints had been received from bona fide passengers protesting against this needless harassment. According to Mr Mangal Moorthy, the airport check in the case of flights going to the Gulf countries had led to passengers being asked to report at the airport almost three hours before the time of departure.

A Press Note issued by the Government today said that a system to ensure that the requirements of the Indian Emigration Act of 1922 were not circumvented and that those who fell within the purview of the Act proceeded abroad on employment only after obtaining emigration clearance, was instituted during 1977-78. However, the procedure, it was noticed, was considered an inconvenience and an irritant by bona fide passengers. To remove this inconvenience, a new system of checks was being introduced, the Press Note added.

Under the new system all passports will be endorsed at the time of issue, indicating whether the person was exempt from the requirements of emigration clearance.

Passports of those Indian nationals who fall within the purview of the Emigration Act would bear an endorsement to the effect that the passport holders need an emigration check before their departure.

Those whose passports indicate that an emigration check is required, but who might be going abroad for purposes other than employment are asked to have their passports endorsed to the effect that the emigration clearance requirement has been suspended for that specific journey. [as published]

CSO: 4220

'DETECTION MACHINERY' FOR 'FOREIGNERS' PLANNED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 18 Oct 80 pp 1, 3

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 17.--The Centre today announced that it would take up "vigorously" and on a priority basis "the detection of foreigners", who had come into Assam after March 1971.

It announced its decision to set up a "detection machinery" which will command the confidence of all concerned. Similarly, arrangements would be made to issue identity cards to voters in Assam after revision of electoral rolls.

The Government's unilateral announcements came immediately on the heels of the infructuous talks between Mr Zail Singh, Union Home Minister and representatives of the All-Assam Students Union and the All-Assam Gana Sangram Parishad which ended here yesterday.

The Government's decision to stick to 1971 as the base year for identifying foreign nationals goes against the demand of the leaders of the Assam agitation. They want all those who had entered Assam after 1961 to be deported or dispersed to other States.

A Press release said the Government accepted in principle the demand that in future citizenship certificates be issued by the Central authorities and not State Governments. "The modalities are being worked out".

The Government realized the need for an accelerated development of Assam and other States and Union Territories in the northeastern region. The release pointed out that the Prime Minister had set up a committee of Ministers to review the special needs of the region.

The Government decisions were announced in the release issued by the Home Ministry this evening. It says that the approach of "certain elements" in Assam to solution of the problem "is neither constructive nor practicable". The consensus among Opposition parties and groups in Parliament and leaders of political parties in Assam whom the Government had consulted, was that the 1971 electoral rolls should form the basis for identification of foreigners.

The release accused the movement leaders of taking an "inflexible attitude" and said the Government had been alive to the genuine fears of the people in Assam and had initiated several measures to deal with the problem of foreign nationals.

The release said that by the continuance of the agitation, even the normal work of detection and deportation of foreigners which was the stated objective of the agitators, had been brought to a standstill. [as published] "Taking all aspects into consideration and the imperative need to restore normality in Assam, the Government had made earnest efforts to convince the leaders of the agitation of the need to find a solution satisfactory to all concerned".

The release further said that the approach of the leaders of the agitation "totally ignores the human angle of the problem and the apprehensions of linguistic and religious minorities". They were not willing to take cognizance of the national commitments towards displaced persons.

The AASU and the Parishad continued to insist on the 1951 National Register of Citizens being taken as the basic document for detection of foreigners without regard to its legal admissibility. "Their idea is that the entire population of Assam should be subjected to scrutiny to determine who came to Assam after 1951".

The two organizations wanted inner line regulations to prevent Indian citizens from entering Assam without a permit. "This runs counter to the concept of all-India citizenship. It is unthinkable that the State of Assam, which was in the mainstream of the country for centuries, should now be a closed territory even to Indians themselves".

The Press Note recalled that at the March meeting of Opposition parties and groups in Parliament and the Assam Assembly, the consensus was that the 1971 electoral rolls should form the basis for identifying foreigners. [as published] At this and subsequent meetings with leaders of Opposition parties and groups in Parliament appeals were issued by all present to the agitators to call off the agitation and restore normality. "However, these appeals went unheeded".

The Note said a climate of bitterness, suspicion, and distrust had engulfed the area. In Assam, harmony between communities and groups had been disrupted and many innocent lives were lost. Minorities, linguistic and religious, had been feeling insecure, it added.

PTI adds: Mr Zail Singh had a day-long review of the Assam negotiations with senior officials of the Home Ministry. He received in the evening delegations of the All-Assam Minority Students Union and the All-Assam Nepali Students Union. The Nepali students pleaded for July 30, 1976 as the cut-off year for Nepali nationals in the restricted areas of Assam.

CSO: 4220

NORTHEAST TERRORISTS USING PARCEL BOMBS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 13 Oct 80 p 1

[Text] Gauhati, Oct. 12.--Parcel bombs are the latest weapon of terrorists in the north-eastern region, especially Assam. The 14-year old son of a leading lawyer and business man of Mangaldai town in Darrang district on the north bank of the Brahmaputra was injured while trying to open what seemed to be a registered parcel.

The boy put the parcel between his legs while trying to open it when it exploded with a bang, which some claimed could be heard a mile away. The boy was rushed to a clinic in Gauhati with injuries mainly in the legs and hands.

Forensic experts have begun investigations in Mangaldai.

Sources said the experts were looking for a battery device which was later found. Official sources could neither confirm nor deny whether the device was of foreign origin.

This was the second such explosion within a short period, and in the same sub-division. In the other incident a doctor of Khairabari is reported to have lost a few fingers. The last time when parcel bombs were used was in 1973. The police then suspected Naxalite elements.

UNI reports: Intensifying its operations against the extremists and insurgents in Manipur, the Army has started uprooting their bases in the remote and outlying areas.

This means great relief and security for the terrorized people from whom meagre valuables and rations are taken away by the insurgents, says a defence Press release issued last night.

A combined force of the Army and BSF while carrying out an operation near Chary in the eastern district of Manipur on October 8 and 9 came upon a major hideout of the outlawed People's Liberation Army.

The insurgents were asked to surrender but instead they opened fire and attempted to escape. In the exchange of fire seven PLA extremists, including the Lhasa-trained Indrajit Singh, were shot dead. A BSF jawan was also killed and a large number of insurgents wounded.

The Army, on humanitarian grounds, flew out as many of the bodies as possible and handed them over to the police.

Food found in the camp was distributed among villagers from whom it was believed to have been extorted.

CSO: 4220

WEST BANGAL 'JOB WORKERS' MOSTLY CPI(M) MEMBERS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 17 Oct 80 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Oct. 16.—Most "job workers" in the West Bengal Government's food-for-work programme are CPI(M) members, a two-member study team, appointed by the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction, claims to have found.

According to the report of the study team the West Bengal Government had created a novel institution of "job workers" responsible for the distribution of coupons for foodgrain and for the execution of work under the food-for-work programme. It has suggested that the system of appointing job workers be "stopped forthwith". Instead, the report suggested, a small committee be appointed in each village giving due representation to different political parties for the execution of work under the programme.

The two-member official team, appointed by the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction, also came across complaints in a few villages that the pradhans and panchayat members selected work according to their "whims and fancies, caring only for their favourites". It would, however, be difficult to say that this is done purely for political considerations and foodgrain supplied under the programme is used for political purposes, their report said.

But the team also explained that since most of the gram pradhans belonged to "one particular party" (CPI(M)), "such a possibility cannot altogether be ruled out". It suggested "a more serious probe" to arrive at a definite conclusion. The report was submitted to the Government recently.

They gram pradhans distribute the resources they receive in cash and kind under the programme to members of gram panchayats. No proper estimates are prepared before taking up work. Nor are measurement books maintained properly. In fact, each member of the gram panchayat manages the work in his own village under this programme as well as other programmes. He chooses one job worker for each work with the approval of the pradhan. This job worker is paid Rs 8.10 per day — Rs 3 in cash and 4.5 kg of wheat. Since most of the gram pradhans are members of the CPI(M), the job worker is also mostly a CPI(M) worker.

The study team has expressed the view that West Bengal's system of making panchayats solely responsible for executing work under the programme "is not desirable" even though the guidelines of the food-for-work do provide for execution of work by the panchayats. However, the intention all along has been that all the work taken up under the programme should be planned properly and necessary help and guidance from technical as well as administrative personnel should be made available to them and constant watch and supervision kept on the execution of work and on proper distribution of foodgrain.

This is a clear violation of the guideline on the food-for-work programme, which suggests setting up of steering committees headed by the district magistrate with representatives of zilla parishads or district panchayats, local State legislators and M.P.s. These committees had not been constituted "so far in any district". The result is that there is no supervision, technical or administrative, over the work executed by panchayats. For this reason, the work is of low quality and sub-standard, the report said.

The study team, consisting of Mr N. P. Singh, director, Food-for-Work and Mr G. S. Sandhu, another director of the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction, also felt that the West Bengal Government had made no provision for the food-for-work programme, although sufficient funds had been provided for the rural works programme.

Also durability was not considered necessary for work under the food-for-work programme. The study team found that this impression was "widespread" particularly at the field level. The officers of the State Government were not able to explain satisfactorily why this impression was given to the executing agencies, when one of the basic conditions of implementation of the food-for-work programme by any State was that only dur-

able community assets could be created, the report said.

Even though no individual assets could be created under the programme, the West Bengal Government's guidelines "indicate that private tanks also could be improved if one or more co-shares authorized the gram panchayat to improve them. Many of the tank projects taken up under the programme were like this only when the individual co-shares' tanks have been improved, benefiting these persons," the study team said.

The report also mentioned that during the last year, the State Government also utilized foodgrain under the programme for rebuilding houses "washed away" during the floods and for "clearing the sand deposits on farmers' fields". This was stopped after the Centre issued instructions clarifying that this was not possible, but the quantity of foodgrain actually utilized on the work had not been reported "in spite of pointed references".

The majority of work inspected by the study team did not conform to the technical specification and standards. The link roads in Howrah were mostly very narrow measuring four to seven feet. Many look like village pathways which violate the guidelines issued to the State Government. Besides, "the planning of the work seems to be receiving no attention in the State".

The study team suggested that the State Government be asked to run one consolidated "food-for-work" programme rather than operate it in different names like "rural works" or "rural reconstruction". All work taken up under the programme should be "technically sound" and the supervision and monitoring of work should be made the responsibility of the district administration. The district level steering committee should be constituted as laid down in the guidelines of the Centre.

PROBLEMS OF NAXALITE AREA DISCUSSED

Madras THE HINDU in English 16 Oct 80 p 8

[Text] Tiruppathur--The insecurity and frustration emerging in this typically backward area are more disturbing than the present situation. Educated youth is discontented; landless farm labourers are frustrated; caste Hindu-Harijan relations are worsening.

All this is a culmination of a chain of events in the border taluk of the district, starting with ruthless exploitation of unwary small farmers, farm labourers and other backward classes by usurious money-lenders and landlords, denial of legitimate dues to Harijans, Government negligence of the needs of educated unemployed and initial lethargy on the part of the police.

The acute drought conditions have aggravated the situation. In many villages there is no normal human activity; the people are afraid of either the naxalites or the police. Women keep themselves indoors even during day time. People speak in low voices, looking around suspiciously. Villages become sleepy even before dusk and all activities come to a standstill.

Dangerous Trend

One dangerous trend is the growing illwill between caste Hindus and Harijans, arising out of the feeling that naxalites have their roots in Harijan colonies.

In one village in Araram revenue firka, Harijans were barred from drawing water from irrigation wells for some time. A compromise was later reached when caste Hindus found they could not carry on their normal household and farm work without Harijan labourers.

G. Masilamani of Vengalapuram village said that for about a fortnight after the massive hunt for naxalites began Harijans were refused work in his village. Even bullock-carts were banned entry in the caste Hindu areas.

Some caste-Hindus feel that hard-core naxalite elements belonging to the Harijan community are still at large, mainly because of protection given to them in Harijan colonies.

C. Sounderarajan, a Harijan youth, who has completed his S.S.L.C. could not get a job even as a casual worker in a tannery basically because he came from Ponneri

village affected by naxalite activity in recent months. He worked as a casual labourer under the Food for Work Programme along with his friend C. Kasi, a post-graduate student for some time. But the work has been stopped as there is no rice allotment.

In Madapalli and Madavalam villages, Harijan youths live under the constant fear of police action. A village officer in Madavalam village said that during his recent pilgrimage to Palani, he was denied accommodation in hotels because he came from a naxalite area. Another youth said that he got accommodation in a hotel in Madras city only by giving a false address.

Small Farmers' Plight

Another aspect of the economic plight of the people is the problem small farmers face. Most money-lenders have stopped giving credit to small landholders following the Debt Relief Act. Cooperatives have not filled up the vacuum. G. Krishna Reddy has about four acres of land and has not till now enjoyed any of the benefits announced for small farmers. He and some others felt that it would be difficult for them to secure an income certificate (as required under the Debt Relief Act) from the Revenue Department, because of the influence money-lenders have with government machinery.

Political leaders and knowledgeable persons who in general welcome the police measures against naxalites feel that unless it is followed up by action to cure the socio-economic ills, the problems will remain. Farm wages are far low in this area; men get Rs. 5 a day and women Rs. 2. They have work only for about six months in a year.

Strangely, local political leaders belonging to all parties have not ventured to make a study of the problem. They feel that it is the job of the Government or the police to bring about a transformation. They want a special officer posted to this area to study the problems and evolve projects which should get massive financial assistance from the Government.

Police Lethargy

Although the 'Q' branch C.I.D. Police has been making a study of the growing naxalite problem in this area from early seventies, till the triple murder case at Ponneri village, the local police were mostly inclined to treat incidents like destruction of crops, daylight robbery and raid in villages, as those arising out of family disputes and property quarrels. This is attributed to the lethargy that set in the Police department, particularly in Tiruppathur area, as a sequel to an enquiry conducted into the death of Seeralan, a hard-core naxalite.

Closely on the heels of the Ponneri murder case, police embarked upon a combing operation in the hilly tracts and caught 85 persons who were stated to have been involved in 45 criminal cases relating to arson, looting, and destruction of agricultural crops. Most of them are on bail now. Another batch of 16 persons who were arrested in connection with the Ponneri murder case are in remand.

The first major breakthrough was made by the police on September 1, when Mattukara Mani was arrested on Chandrapuram hill, followed by the arrest of Ranjan and

Miss Mani near Ponneri the next day. Kanjan is a hard-core naxalite who has had training in the making of country bombs.

The Encounters

The first encounter between police and naxalites took place on September 11, when Subramaniam and Shanmugam were killed on the Bommikuppam-Kadirampatti road junction. Subramaniam was identified by his mother, who could not say anything about her son's bent of mind, whereas Shanmugam's identity was established later by his kith and kin.

When I visited the spot for the second time recently, people would not say anything more than that they heard some sound early in the morning. None was specific, since the incident happened before day break. However, the Village Officer of Agaram said that he was taken to the spot in the morning and that he saw two persons with bullet injuries and throbbing with life and some country bombs around.

The second encounter took place on September 18, when Kurivikkaran Kanagaraj was killed at Kalkuthiyur village. Even close relatives of Kanagaraj could not say anything specific about the encounter and they were not inclined to accept his body for cremation, on grounds of monetary difficulties. But the fact seemed to be that they feared further police action.

Detailed questioning about any mass arrest by police or harassment, evoked little response. The exceptions were Madavalam and Madapalli Harijan colonies where some complained that some innocent persons were taken to the police station during the early hunt and that they were interrogated and "dealt with" and released the next morning. But this was stopped after some time. Women complained that local police, on patrol, used abusive language against them. Further probing only made them silent.

Party Leaders' View

Except local leaders of the Communist Party of India, other political leaders have supported the police action. At functions organised recently for opening two police stations, one at Kurisilapattu village and another on the Yelagiri hills, Messrs. B. Sundaram (DMK) and K. Anbazhagan (AIADMK) MLAs even appealed to innocent people not to grudge it if they had to undergo some hardship.

Some of these political leaders are not inclined to treat this problem as arising out of naxalite activity but attribute it to atrocities committed by a "group of wagon-looters from Jolarpet area and self-styled Robinhoods who expanded their terrorist activity under the cover of naxalites".

Mr. A. Subramaniam, ex-President of Agaram panchayat, said unscrupulous money-lenders and landlords in Tiruppathur area had been utilising Harijan youths to settle their scores with others and that these gangsters later became the followers of naxalite leaders. [as published]

Such statements notwithstanding, it is a fact the naxalites have established a well-knit organisation in this area. In most villages in Natrampalli, Kandili and Jolarpet areas, they have developed atleast four or five cadres and classes

are conducted even now. [as published] Several educated youths, particularly those belonging to Harijan and Vanniya communities did not hesitate to express their support to the movement.

But the naxalites are yet to make any progress in their effort to woo landless farm labourers, because the labour force in this area is very much disorganised.

Difficult to Retrace Steps

How do the police view things? A senior officer remarked during a casual talk that whatever might be the contradictions or doubts expressed about the police action, they had now reached a stage from where it would be difficult to retrace their steps. He had no qualms in conceding that when it came to the life of policemen, there was no other option but to open fire and even kill the naxalites. Any further casualty on the police side would totally demoralise the force. Even today, a post of a deputy superintendent of police in the investigation branch is vacant, probably because of the reluctance to work in this area.

About the encounters, he says the naxalites are now armed with country bombs and that they use them when confronted by the police. It was not the intention of police to kill, he said, pointing out that Misa Mani, Mattukara Mani and Ranjan were only arrested. The police were very particular not to estrange the feelings of the public as that would only stop the flow of information.

Mr. P. V. Bakthavatsalam, President of the Organisation of Civil and Democratic Rights, who has just come out on bail, said he had written to the Chief Minister from Salem jail requesting for a discussion about the naxalite problem. But he had not received any reply. He alleged that the police were threatening lawyers belonging to his organisation so that they would not take up cases of the victims. The recent arrest of CPI members in Kandili area and some members of his organisation in Chettikuppam near Gudiyatham were attempts by the police to put down those who fought for justice.

It was unfortunate that members of his organisation, who fought for democratic rights were branded as naxalites, Mr. Bakthavatsalam said. He had publicly condemned the anti-social activities and annihilation policy of the so-called naxalites. His organisation was only making efforts to change the hearts of the naxalites who had no faith in democratic processes.

The Organisation had not failed to voice its protest when the AIADMK Government was dismissed and when action was taken against the police force during their strike.

CSO: 4220

RSS TO ORGANIZE EDUCATED JOBLESS YOUTHS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 17 Oct 80 p 4

[Text] Lucknow, Oct 16--The RSS-sponsored Yuva Janata Morcha has decided to organise the educated unemployed youths in a big way throughout the country.

As part of its plan for organising the educated unemployed, the morcha plans to organise youth camps, hold seminars, public rallies, marches and demonstrations at State capitals to culminate in a big rally of unemployed youth in front of Parliament during the month of March.

"Our movement will be movement with wide dimensions", president of Yuva Janata Morcha Kalraj Misra told newsmen here today.

Replying to a question, he said that the 'movement' has already started. The starting point was presentation of their charter of demands to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on 13 October.

Asserting that there were at least 2.5 crore unemployed youths in the country at the movement, Mr Misra said that these youths were "drifting" without any direction", and some of them had started indulging even in anti-social activities, out of frustration. [as published] "These youths have to be organised, given new faith and new direction", he said.

Mr Misra regretted that the Centre was not "realising the gravity of the situation" and the morcha planned "to make the Government realise its gravity and force them to solve the problems of unemployed youths on a priority basis".

One way to make the Government aware of this problem was to launch a countrywide agitation on 'non-violent lines'.

The youths, he said, had to play a leading role in re-building the nation. The present Government had yet to realise it.

He said the successive five-year Plans had failed to find any solution of the youth's problem. "In fact, the Union Government has no national employment policy, and no plan to solve the problem of unemployment".

He demanded setting up of a youth commission, to prepare a plan for employment of youth and other aspects of their lives, to include right to work in Fundamental Rights chapter of the Constitution, to provide new employment opportunities by developing small-scale agro-based industries and to make education job-oriented.

BANGALORE AIR FORCE TRAINING CENTER DESCRIBED

Madras THE HINDU in English 12 Oct 80 p 25

[Text] A "rest and cure camp" for wounded soldiers and Italian prisoners of war during the Second World War has now grown into a giant training centre for high skill manpower of the Indian Air Force.

A rather deceptive facade hides the modern and sophisticated ground training complex in the tiled vintage barracks of World War II, in Jalahalli on the northern periphery of Bangalore.

Teenagers fresh from school, seldom having any knowledge of complicated machines, are trained here. They are moulded into highly skilled airmen capable of handling intricate and sophisticated apparatus on aircraft.

The present training complex was in the past known as Hospital Town East and West; and the big hospital located there during the war used to look after the war-wounded and Italian prisoners of war.

It was in June 1943 that the training complex began to take shape with the establishment of No. 2 Recruits Training Centre for initial training to Indian airmen. Two years later the No. 1 Recruits Training Centre was moved to this place from Walton.

The Air Force Station came into being in Jalahalli on February 1, 1948, and the two recruit training centres were merged. In the last three decades the station has developed into one of the vital limbs of the IAF making invaluable contribution to the operational efficiency of the Air Force.

The complex controls four major training wings, namely, the Communication Training Institute, the Electrical Instrument Training Institute, the Electronic Training Institute and the Medical Training Centre--imparting in all, training in eleven technical trades of electronic discipline and five quasi-technical and non-technical trades.

There are facilities for specialised and advance courses for both officers and airmen. The period of training ranges from 36 weeks for a mechanical transport driver to 68 weeks including four weeks mid-course leave for a radio technician.

Matriculates between the ages of 16-1/2 to 20 years, recruited as airmen trainees, will first have 26 weeks training in general service including physical training parade, weapon handling.

The curriculum also includes general education, English and basic sciences. After the initial training, the trainees are given an aptitude test based on which the trades are allocated. For non-technical trades, the recruiting centre itself allots the trades.

The emphasis is on practical demonstration. The trainees are straightaway asked to handle machines, dismantle and reassemble them so that they become conversant with the functions of every part.

The training centre also conducts refresher courses for airmen.

What is noteworthy is the system built into the training process to update the knowledge of airmen. The process of obsolescence is faster in aviation and related spheres.

The syllabi in the training wings is constantly revised and updated and the training improved with advanced aids and instructional methods.

The medical training centre which is growing in importance is being shifted to a new site in the vicinity of the Command Hospital (Air Force) in Agaram on way to the Bangalore airport.

The professional training to paramedical staff or the medical assistants include first aid, dispensing simple prescription, maintaining unit sanitation and hygiene.

Air Commodore K. M. Ponnappa who recently took charge of the IAF station at Jalahalli, says that life in the Air Force has its own adventures and charms. Many youngsters like it.

Many young trainees feel they have entered a new world, a thrilling and exciting one. "I had a desire to join the Air Force and I am very proud to be in it", says a trainee in the communication training centre. Educated upto the PUC and hailing from Gauhati, he had to assist his family as his father, a clerk in the railways, passed away in 1975.

A trainee from Orissa in the electrical and instrument wing, also has to bear the burden of his family. "I like the emphasis on physical fitness and alertness", he says.

A graduate from the Bangalore University says that he is attracted by the disciplined life and dedication in the Air Force.

A few developing countries have also taken advantage of the training facilities here.

CSO: 4220

IMPORT SUBSTITUTION COMMITTEE SUBMITS REPORT

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 17 Oct 80 p 9

[Text] NEW DELHI, Oct. 16.—Import substitution has to be restricted to items, the indigenous production of which gives comparative cost advantage, unless a particular item is of strategic importance reserves UN1

This is the view expressed by the Import Substitution Committee, which submitted its report to Mr Charanjit Chaudhary Minister for Industry here today.

The 13-member committee, headed by Mr S. M. Agarwal, former Secretary, Ministry of Communications, was setup in June, 1979. The report said that the pattern of investment and expansion have to be geared to the development of a healthy and dynamic industry.

The committee feels that rapid import substitution can be achieved only through faster industrial growth and special efforts should be directed towards import substitution of all major industrial products.

In the area of import substitution and excise policies, the committee feels that open general licence should not be allowed to be used for the import of banned finished products in CKD form as components, since such imports affect the growth of indigenous industries.

For this purpose, it has recommended suitable enlargement of the restricted list and the removal of anomalies in respect of Customs

and excise duties for items whose demand is met partly by import and partly by indigenous production.

The committee has made special recommendations in respect of nine capital intensive key industrial areas which at present account for about 80% of the total imports of the country. They include iron and steel, fertilizers, chemicals (organic, inorganic and resins), textiles (man-made), drugs and pharmaceuticals, cement, paper, aluminium, electrical machinery and power generating equipment. It is of the opinion that in some of these areas like steel, cement and aluminium India's comparative advantage and cost effectiveness would provide excellent opportunities for immediate cost-import substitution.

These have to be handled under closely monitored action programmes which have to be prepared on the basis of short and long term perspective plans based on rigorous investment planning studies for determining the most optimal size, location, technology, investment time-shasing and other strategies.

Special treatment of highly technological industrial sectors like telecommunications, electronics, data processing equipment and instrumentation has been recommended. The country has substantial advantage in these labour-intensive industries but in which large imports are being made. The committee recommends development of

these industries under time-bound programmes. Special emphasis has to be laid on technological development on a coordinated basis. These industries have high export potential.

In the field of petroleum and edible oils the committee feels that special action programmes have to be formulated and pursued to increase maximum production and conserve use. For edible oils the setting up of a specialists' group to formulate strategies for increased production of oilseeds, improvement of oil extraction equipment and development of non-traditional edible oils has been suggested. For petroleum, the committee has recommended adoption of special conservation measures and greater emphasis on the production of oil exploration equipment. The committee recommends increased production and refining capacity.

Other important suggestions include special financial and administrative support to entrepreneurs for taking up development and manufacture of critical components and spare parts of a variety of special equipment and devices imported by the Ministries of Defence, Railways, Communications and other organizations to keep in operation the large quantum of sophisticated imported equipment. Great emphasis has been laid on quality control, quality certification and standardization.

OFFICIAL DISCUSSES NEED TO PROTECT ECONOMIC ZONE

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 16 Oct 80 p 3

[Text] Warships of the Indian Navy intercepted a number of poachers fishing prawn in Indian waters off Sandheads on October 12, it was learnt in Calcutta on Wednesday. Naval officials took action against these poachers, most of whom allegedly belonged to Thailand.

Vice-Admiral M. K. Roy, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command, refused to divulge details of the incident on October 12 because of possible international complications, but said that foreign trawlers were illegally fishing prawn worth more than Rs 5 crores a month in the Sandheads area. [as published] A number of Naval vessels are patrolling the area at present. The current season is the time for breeding prawn.

Vice-Admiral Roy stressed the need to form an effective system of coast guards to defend the economic interests of the country at sea. He said that the recent Laws of the Sea Conference had largely reoriented the relations between the seas and the States. According to the terms of the agreement reached at the Conference, 200 miles of the coast of a country has been defined as its exclusive economic zone. Only the countries concerned is entitled to exploit the economic resources of the area. [as published]

He said that the exclusive economic zone of India was rich in mineral wealth. Besides, a large number of fishing trawlers operated in the area. It was important to guard these resources. But lack of adequate finance was standing in the way of developing a system of coast guards. It also took time to acquire vessels to equip the coast guards.

Vice-Admiral Roy noted that during the past five years, arms worth more than \$4.5 billion had been brought to the Indian Ocean. The recent moves of the 5th and the 7th fleet of the U.S. Navy and the Soviet fleets from Black Sea and Vladivostok were heightening tension in the area. The Indian Ocean was strategically important, being the link between Europe and the East--Japan, China and Australia--and the connexion between the western and eastern seabords of Russia. The region has a number of bottlenecks such as the Malacca Straits, Babel Mandeb and the Strait of Hormuz which worried the Super Powers.

Though the Indian Navy was capable of meeting a challenge from any of its Asian neighbours, there were plans to modernize it. [as published] INS Vikrant, the

lone aircraft carrier, was being modernized and a frigate, the first to be completely designed in India, was under construction at Mazagon Dock in Bombay.

Vice-Admiral Roy, however, lamented the gradual downfall of ship-building yards in Calcutta. He praised the skill of technicians in Calcutta, but added that they were not equipped with modern machinery and techniques. The Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers were harried by perpetual labour trouble, which led to delays in construction of ships. A number of Defence orders had recently been diverted to Mazagon Dock in view of the situation in Garden Reach. This included the first submarine to be built in India.

He added that the Navy was now tightening its belt in fuel consumption, specially in view of the west Asian war. Care was taken that no fuel was wasted during regular exercises.

CSO: 5200

COMMERCE MINISTER REVIEWS TRADE WITH ROMANIA

Madras THE HINDU in English 21 Oct 80 p 11

[Text] Rumania is interested in participating in an integrated steel plant in India with the iron ore to be available from the Kudremukh project.

This was disclosed by Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, Union Minister for Commerce, Steel and Mines, to pressmen prior to his departure for Bucharest today to attend the meeting of the Indo-Rumanian Joint Commission commencing there on October 22.

He said the question of setting up a shore-based integrated steel plant, utilising the Kudremukh ore, would be one of the main topics on the agenda of the joint Commission.

India was willing to utilise the Rumanian offer so that the Kudremukh ore could be used in the country as well.

Mr. Mukherjee said the initial instalment of the three million tonnes of iron ore in the form of filter cakes, scheduled to be exported to Iran as per an agreement, could not be shipped because of the Iran-Iraq conflict.

Trade Growth

Turning to Indo-Rumanian trade, the Minister said the target of Rs. 60 crores, set earlier by the Indo-Rumanian Joint Commission in 1975 had already been surpassed. As a matter of fact, the trade turn-over between the two countries had been increasing.

Trade between India and Rumania had increased from a small beginning of Rs. 3.8 crores in 1955 to Rs 92.9 crores in 1979. The growth was significant during the last four years when it shot up from Rs. 55.4 crores in 1977 to Rs. 72.1 crores in 1978 and then to Rs. 92.9 crores in 1979.

The Minister hoped the trade between the two countries would be doubled during the current year as compared to 1974.

Mr. Mukherjee was accompanied by officials of the Ministries of Petroleum and Chemicals, Shipping, Industry, Finance and External Affairs.

He said they would also try to explore the possibility of an agreement in new fields of cooperation. The Joint Commission was also in the process of identifying such fields in the development of oil, chemicals, power, agriculture and water resources.

Rumania was expected to supply a large number of deep drilling rigs to India for oil exploration in view of the present international energy crisis. The two countries had earlier agreed to cooperate in third countries to build up joint projects, specially in oil exploration.

Tea Exports

The Minister said India would be able to ship 230 million kg of tea during the current financial year if the situation in the Calcutta port continued to be normal.

He was happy over the larger quantity of tea exports during the first nine months of the current year.

According to the figures supplied by the Tea Board, Mr. Mukherjee said, tea export licenses to the tune of 135 million kg. had been issued till October 15 this year as against 115 million kg. during the same period last year.

Mr. Mukherjee was of the view that the disturbed conditions in the Calcutta port during the month of September last might have caused a slump in exports of tea from India. He said many foreign buyers had complained they were unable to lift tea in time due to troubles affecting port operations.

The Centre was keeping a close watch on the performance of the Calcutta port as the bulk of tea was exported through this port.

Mr. Mukherjee called upon producers of tea to increase the volume of exports so they could compete with the other tea-exporting countries. The demand for tea in the world market had continued to grow despite the fall in prices.--PTI. [as published]

CSO: 4220

LABOR BUREAU ISSUES REPORT ON MANDAY LOSSES

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 20 Oct 80 p 7

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 19.--In the first half of the year, there were 1,235 industrial disputes resulting in stoppages of work. According to the latest Indian Labour Journal published by the Labour Bureau, Simla, these disputes involved 544,174 workers and a loss of over seven million mandays.

In the corresponding period last year, there were 1,678 industrial disputes, involving 1,802,952 workers and resulting in a loss of 26,954,754 mandays. During the first half of this year the largest number of mandays 1,625,952, was lost in April. Last year in the first six months January saw a staggering loss of 3,390,991 mandays.

What does loss in mandays imply? A detailed analysis made by the Labour Bureau in respect of industrial disputes in 1978, when 28.3 million mandays were lost, shows that in each of the 2,265 disputes for which data had been supplied wages lost per dispute amounted to Rs 1,05,077 while the value of production lost was Rs 12.5 lakhs.

The analysis also shows that political and sympathetic strikes that year accounted for a time-loss of 182,000 mandays in the State sphere and 547,000 mandays in the Central sphere. There were 63 such strikes in the State sphere and 72 in the Central sphere. Maharashtra accounted for the maximum number of strikes, 34, resulting in the loss of 110,000 mandays. In the Central sphere, however, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh led in strikes (27) and mandays lost (326,000) respectively.

Two all-India strikes involved 307,589 workers or 16.1% of the total work force in the country. It entailed a loss of 1,174,300 mandays or 4.1% of the total time-loss in the country.

There is also the revelation that of a total 255 major disputes in the public and private sector in 1978, 247 arose due to non-implementation of labour enactments, three due to non enforcement of labour awards and five due to non-compliance with labour agreements.

Of the 2.71 million mandays lost due to non-implementation of labour enactments, 74,000 mandays were attributed to monetary causes like wages and bonus and 1.40 million mandays were attributed to indiscipline and violence.

CSO: 4220

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HEAD DISCUSSES DEFICIT

Madras THE HINDU in English 21 Oct 80 p 9

[Text] Bangalore, Oct 20--The President of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Mr K. N. Modi, has pleaded for phasing out of the import of commodities like cement and paper and encouragement of higher production of those commodities in the country by revision of prices.

Speaking to newsmen on Monday he said the country could bring down the foreign trade deficit by half if the Government enabled the country's industries to increase the output of commodities like cement paper, newsprint, caustic soda, fertilizers and soda ash. The trade deficit might reach the unprecedented level of Rs. 4,000 crores and there was also a fall in remittance from abroad, he said. Price controls, wherever they existed (as in the case of cement, paper and sugar), should be revised to ensure that the investment earned a reasonable return. There had to be an automatic adjustment of prices to costs to prevent the squeezing of the margins.

Citing the example of cement, he said the country was importing cement at Rs. 700 a tonne. Instead it could allow the industry to demand a higher price and increase production. It would be a shortsighted policy not to give remunerative prices. Reduction in prices was good only to a certain extent and the country could save Rs. 2,000 crores on exports if indigenous production was increased, he said.

Mr. Modi said the country should have an industrial growth of at least 10 per cent in the 'eighties. Unfortunately the growth rate had been a negative one last year.

Improvement in the mining and transportation of coal was only a question of management, he said. The Cabinet sub-committee on the subject should initiate bold measures. The power shortage was acute in the northern and the eastern regions.

To stimulate industrial production besides revision of prices, the capital market had to be revived by restoring the balance between dividend and interest, Mr. Modi said. The financial institutions should not impose unrealistic terms and conditions in respect of promoters' contribution or the debt equity ratio.

Mr. Modi warned that recession might set in if measures were not taken to stem the decline in money supply. Credit curbs on industry and trade and the impounding of 10 per cent deposits of commercial banks should be withdrawn to avoid it, he added.

The Centre was aware of the need for stimulating industrial growth, and the Prime Minister had started a dialogue with industry, Mr. Modi admitted. But owing to inter-Ministry problems "things are not moving as fast as they should."

Mr. Modi listed measures like the five per cent automatic growth allowed for priority industries, export promotion measures such as providing free trade zone facilities for 100 per cent export units located anywhere in the country and exclusion of export production from the Monopoly and Restrictive Trade Practices Act as those which spoke of the Government's keenness to increase industrial production.

Recently the Federation met the Prime Minister to discuss the measures and get the hurdles removed.

But Mr. Modi felt it would be difficult to establish cent per cent export units because of the uncertainties of international trade. To make the proposal more realistic, free trade zone facilities should be made available to units whose exports were more than 60 per cent of their production.

Calling for expeditious implementation of Government decisions, Mr. Modi complained that although the definition of small-scale industry had been changed from Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 20 lakhs, the banks were yet to provide credit on the basis of the new definition.

CSO: 4220

SURVEY STEPS UP EFFORTS TO MAP NORTHEAST

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 16 Oct 80 p 3

[Text] The Geological Survey of India has accorded the highest priority to geological mapping of the country. At present, about 53% of the country's area is still to be mapped geologically. The GSI's mapping work in the north-eastern region was affected last year because of disturbances in the region, it is officially learnt.

During the current field season, which started on October 1, the GSI has taken up alternate programmes for mapping of the north-eastern region. During the current season, 340 geologists will be engaged for mapping of the country, compared with 329 deployed last year. The GSI hopes to map an additional 110,400 sq. m. during the year, against 90,177 sq. km. mapped last year. The total area of the country is estimated to be 3.2 million sq. km.

Expeditions will be organized during the current year for mapping the high altitude and inaccessible areas in the Himalayas. Most of the mapping programmes will be preceded by photogeological reconnaissance. The expeditions in the Himalayas will also carry out studies on snow, ice and glaciers which are essential for water resource evaluation and management.

The studies on some of the important Himalayan glaciers, taken up some years back under the International Hydrological Programme, will be continued during the current season. Beginning with only one glacier--Gangotri in Uttar Pradesh--the programmes has now been extended to six glaciers. The investigations of avalanches in the Sonamarg area of Kashmir have resulted in the collection of valuable data necessary for the safe design of the proposed hydroelectric project at Hung.

Last year, the Off-Shore Mineral Exploration and Marine Geology Division of the GSI carried out sampling in an area of 8,800 sq. km. of the continental shelf between Machilipatnam and Visakhapatnam, in Andhra Pradesh, in collaboration with the National Institute of Oceanography. Surveys were also conducted for the location of potential areas for exploration of diamonds in the coastal and off-shore areas of Andhra Pradesh.

The Marine Geology Division also conducted studies of the Ganga Delta and Ganga Cone. Off-shore sampling of sediments in the Hooghly river mouth was completed. The work on the Ganga Delta and Ganga Cone will be continued this year.

CSO: 4220

SPACELAB, SATELLITE PROJECT PLANS REPORTED

Madras THE HINDU in English 15 Oct 80 p 11

[Text]

AHMEDABAD, Oct. 14

Two Indian experiments have been accepted by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the European Space Agency (ESA) for their joint project "Spacelab" to be launched once in three months.

Besides the U.S. and the European countries involved in this project of numerous experiments, Japan and India are the only countries whose payloads would be put on board the manned "Spacelab".

India is allowed to have one experiment on the first flight of the "Spacelab" scheduled for March, 1982 and the second on the third flight.

The first Indian experiment will be on photography of "OH" clouds in the upper atmosphere and the second to study heavy solar and inter-stellar particles.

PRL Participation

The Ahmedabad-based Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) is participating in both the experiments in collaboration

with France for the first one and jointly with the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) for the second.

The initial journeys of the "Spacelab" to be put into orbit from Cape Kennedy for carrying out the manifold experiments, will each be of the duration of about a week. Its speciality is that unlike many other space vehicles, it will fly and land like an aircraft after entering the earth atmosphere on a return journey.

Dr. B. H. Subbaraya of PRL is the coordinator for the first Indian experiment and Prof. D. Lal, Director of PRL and Prof. S. Biswas of TIFR, the main investigators for the second experiment.

Dr. Subbaraya said an automatic camera having an image intensifier and containing large amount of films has been despatched to ESA, France for testing and assembly on the "Spacelab" for photographing "OH" clouds, following successful testing of the prototype model.

The specially designed camera, he said, will perform only during the evening and night time. It will not operate even on a full moon night.

The purpose of the experiment is to study the fine structures in the "OH" clouds and to determine the wave length of disturbances in the upper atmosphere.

The objective is also to know how often these disturbances occur and what causes them. The experiment is expected to help scientists determine as to how gravity waves affect the properties in the ionosphere important for radio communication.

Though "OH" clouds are only 85 to 90 km. from the earth surface, they could be better photographed from the "Spacelab" which is to be positioned 300 to 400 km. from the earth, Prof. Subbaraya said.

Five camera stations in various parts of the country will also photograph "OH" clouds during the "Spacelab's" flight. This will enable scientists to

SCIENTISTS' OVERSEAS JOB-HUNTING SCORED

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 12 Oct 80 p 13

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 11.--Mr Birendra Singh, Union Minister for Agriculture, told scientists of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research yesterday that the Government wanted to take steps to stop them from taking up lucrative jobs in foreign countries.

The Minister gave an inkling of what appeared to be on the Government's mind on the subject while addressing a special meeting of the ICAR society. Indeed, he departed from the text of his presidential speech to make his point.

Decrying the craze for foreign visits and assignments among ICAR scientists, the Minister said that he had come across cases in which more scientists were abroad than on their posts in that institution. Therefore, the Government planned to restrict foreign jaunts for the scientists and would ask them to give a written statement on how the country would benefit from their foreign visits. Also, a three-year bond may be required to be executed by Indian scientists receiving education abroad, binding them to serve that long in India on return.

Obviously referring to the Government's latest decision on the character of ICAR and the Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board, the Minister said that within the framework of a general discipline, scientists must be free to pursue their research as they thought best. There must also be a machinery to redress their grievances.

Therefore, it had been laid down that if scientists in ICAR did not get justice from his immediate superior within 15 days, he could ask for an interview with the Minister who was ex-officio president of the ICAR. As for scientists' recruitment, the Minister said he was convinced that it was better to have a separate agency instead of entrusting the task to the UPSC which was already burdened with many other duties. However, he conceded that the one-man board, while sitting for interviewing candidates, must have more experts on it.

The Minister did not agree with the suggestion of Mr Jyotirmoy Bosu, MP and a member of the ICAR for more frequent meetings of the general body—once every two months or at least once a quarter.

CSO: 4220

STEEL AUTHORITY CHAIRMAN REPORTS PROFIT DECLINE

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 11 Oct 80 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 9.--The financial results of the Steel Authority of India in the current year are going to be more dismal than in 1979-80, its chairman, Mr K. C. Khanna, said here today.

The profits of SAIL in 1979-80 declined to Rs 8.35 crores from Rs 43.94 crores in 1978-79. Mr Khanna told the annual general meeting of the company. The steep fall in profits attributed by Mr Khanna to the power and coal crisis in 1979-80. The uncompensated rise in cost, increased burden of imports of coking coal and steel and heavy interest burden to Bokaro and inadequate stock yard margins were responsible for financial losses, he said.

The continued shortage of coal and power in the current year had resulted in the shortfall in the output of saleable steel and would affect the financial results he said.

The steel plants at Rourkela and Bhilai where power shortages were less severe, earned profits of Rs 47.65 crores and Rs 39.53 crores. The plants severely hit by power shortage were Bokaro (loss Rs 34.15 crores) Durgapur (loss: Rs 20.01 crores) and Alloy Steel Plant (loss: Rs 14 lakhs).

The gross turnover of the company during 1979-80 was Rs 1,873.79 crores. The net profit worked out to 4.8% of gross sales, he said.

Mr Khanna was hopeful of steel production picking up with the import of another 10,00,000 tonnes of coking coal having been cleared by the Government, and with the priority allocation of power by the Durgapur Valley Corporation to steel plants from the beginning of this month.

The chairman urged the Government to review the formulae governing steel pricing, the procedure of allowing compensation for cost escalations and development funds so that steel industry received a deal commensurate with its role in the economy.

Mr Khanna said the production strategy in public sector steel plants had since been revised to go in for production of as much finished steel as was permitted by power availability. Efforts were also being made to reduce the stocks of ingot slabs, exploring all possible avenues for their conversion within SAIL plants or through gerollers. Export outlets were being explored.

Mr Khanna said that considering deterioration in the quantity and quality of coking coal and with an anticipated rise in its demand, it would be prudent to have some long-time arrangements with foreign suppliers and negotiate a reasonable price.

He called for improvement in port facilities and the inland transport system to help import coking coal and steel. SAIL had initiated studies on port facilities for handling coal import. If it was for technological compulsions that coking coal had to be earmarked for the steel industry and shortages arose owing to inadequate domestic supplies, it should be examined by the Government whether the extra burden of imports should be sustained by the steel industry alone. It was therefore, reasonable on the part of the steel industry to expect full relief, he said.

The shortfall in steel production in the domestic market was made good by importing more than 1.2 million tonnes of steel at Rs 427.5 crores, which increased availability by more than 5% in 1979-80, compared to 1978-79, Mr Khanna added.

CSO: 4220

GANDHI SPEAKS AT OPENING OF OFFSHORE PLATFORMS

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 12 Oct 80 p 6

[Text] Bombay, Oct. 11.--The Prime Minister today underscored the importance of speeding up the hunt for oil because the heavy import bill on oil was "draining away" the country's foreign exchange resources, report UNI and PTI.

Describing oil as an essential item for modern industry, Mrs Gandhi said its use had been rapidly increasing in India though the per capita consumption in the country was among the lowest in the world. She was speaking as chief guest at the opening of the third and fourth offshore fixed platforms fabricated by the State-owned Mazgaon Dock for the use of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission at Bombay High.

Mrs Gandhi said there was considerable scope in both private and public sector industries for reduction of consumption of petrol, diesel and other oil products in the context of the "dizzy heights" to which oil prices had risen.

She said that though India was producing oil in increasing quantities, it had still to depend on imports which were proving to be a considerable drain on the foreign exchange resources. This situation, she emphasized, called for the adoption of a three-pronged policy in which the highest priority had to be given to increasing indigenous production, followed by greater self-reliance in the matter of know-how for production of equipment for exploration and drilling, and greater restraint on the consumption of petroleum products.

Mrs Gandhi described the construction of the platforms as a major step towards self-reliance in a field of strategic importance. She expressed the hope that the search for oil, particularly through off-shore drilling, would be stepped up with indigenous equipment.

Our Special Representative adds: Mrs Gandhi said the country was sometimes compelled to buy technological knowhow. But neither real development nor technological progress could really be bought or borrowed, she remarked. That was why the highest priority was being given to indigenization of oil production and acquisition of knowhow and equipment in offshore oil production, she said.

Immediately after the two highly-sophisticated platforms were declared open, they were towed away to be raised on massive foundation pylons, also manufactured by the Mazgaon Dock, in the Bombay High basin. Four more such platforms are in various stages of construction at the docks.

CSO: 4220

OIL INDUSTRY A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO EXCHEQUER

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 16 Oct 80 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 15.--The Government's decision to step up investments in Bombay High and other projects to increase oil production is partly possible because the oil industry in India is itself contributing significantly to the exchequer.

Out of the estimated Rs 1,305 crores worth of extra-budgeting resources that public sector undertakings will contribute to the exchequer in the current financial year, the oil industry will contribute Rs 729.07 crores--more than half.

The largest single contribution is from the Oil and Natural Gas Commission which is expected to yield Rs 455.07 crores. This is possibly one reason why the Government yesterday decided to increase investments in the ONGC and its operations in Bombay High, although the benefits of this will accrue in later years.

In the oil industry, the second largest contribution is to be made by the Indian Oil Corporation, whose refineries will yield Rs 111 crores. Other parts of industry like Oil India, Hindustan Petroleum, Bharat Petroleum and other small units account for the rest.

The contributions come from profits, dividends and other returns of the units concerned and are to be used as general revenue which are expected to grow as the oil industry expands. Not only will it become an even larger contributor to the exchequer, but it will help to conserve foreign exchange by increasing production of crude and by refining petroleum products.

The steel group is the other major contributor of extra-budgetary resources by yielding Rs 310 crores, even though the steel industry is not performing particularly well at present.

The airline industry comes next, with Indian Airlines expected to contribute Rs 72.23 crores and Air-India Rs 39.94 crores. Then comes Hindustan Zinc which will generate Rs 23.45 crores followed by Bharat Heavy Electricals with Rs 21 crores.

Altogether, 44 of the 105 public sector undertakings will help generate extra-budgetary resources this year. On the whole, therefore, the entire public sector is doing somewhat poorly as it should be contributing much more than the Rs 1,305 crores expected from it.

In fact, the resources would be more but for the fact that half the public sector is losing and therefore a burden on the exchequer.

CSO: 4220

COAL INDIA'S PRODUCTION SHORT OF TARGET

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 18 Oct 80 p 7

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 17.--Coal India's production in the first half of the current year was short of the target of 45.6 million tonnes by 1.8 million tonnes. Its annual target is 99 million tonnes and if it is to meet it, it will have to produce 54.8 million tonnes of coal at the end of March next year.

According to Mr R. N. Sharma, chairman of Coal India, the shortfall in output was mainly in Coal India's eastern subsidiaries, the Eastern Coalfields and Bharat Coaking Coal, because of a power shortage. The loss was being made up in the eastern sector by stepping up production in the Western Coalfields and in Madhya Pradesh.

Coal India's loss of production of six million tonnes in the eastern sector in 1979-80 was again due to power shortage, Mr Sharma said. The shortage of power adversely affected Coal India's production in the underground mining which yielded better quality of metallurgical coal. The production in the eastern sector was higher by 7% than in the previous year. Coal India had to go in more for open cast mining. It was not deliberate that Coal India was unable to reverse the decline in the underground mining of coal.

Mr Sharma said the thermal power station in the eastern belt never suffered from coal shortage. The DVC network of thermal stations was within the coal area and had not felt any shortage of coal. Similarly, the power stations of Santaldih, Patrata, Calcutta Electric Supply, Corporation and Bandel had enough coal.

He said the Government had approved his plan to set up small captive power station in the coalfields to meet the shortfall of power from the DVC system. [as published] These power stations would come up in the next three to four years, he added.

CSO: 4220

INDIA

SOVIET COAL INDUSTRY DELEGATION ARRIVES IN DELHI

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 23 Oct 80 pp 1, 7

[Text] The USSR will offer sophisticated technology in coal mining to India.

First Deputy Minister for Coal Industry of the USSR Vladimir Belvi, who arrived in New Delhi on Wednesday on a 10-day official visit to India leading a seven-member delegation, gave the information.

During its stay, the delegation will formalise agreements for a number of large coal-mining projects.

The delegation, during its discussions with Indian officials will also identify new areas where the two countries can cooperate in the field of coal development in third countries. The two sides are expected to discuss setting up integrated coal power projects with Soviet know-how.

The two sides will review the cooperation in the development of the open mines in Singrauli, the deep mines in Raniganj, and explore the possibilities of open mining in Jharia. They will also outline possible areas where Soviet technology could be utilised along with Indian know-how.

India and the Soviet Union will sign on Saturday a new protocol coordinating their efforts in the field of machine building, it is learnt.

A high-level delegation from India including Planning Minister N. D. Tiwari, BHEL chairman K L Puri, HEC chairman S. R. Jain, and MMEC, Durgapur chairman B R R Shastri is at present engaged in talks with Soviet officials here.

The new protocol is intended to give direction to cooperation in manufacture of new products, introduction of new technology and indicating fields in which the Soviet Union can buy machinery produced in heavy machine plants in India.

The Indian delegation will also visit the Donets coal basin and some heavy machine plants in Syerdlovsk.

CSO: 4220

ASSAM BLOCKADE CAUSES LARGE LOSS IN CRUDE

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 21 Oct 80 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 20.--The continuing Assam oil blockade has resulted in a loss of production of 3.15 million tonnes of crude in the nine months ending September, according to official estimates, reports UNI.

The loss in the production of major petroleum products during the period is estimated at 2,647,000 tonnes.

In terms of value at international prices, the production loss works out to about Rs 626 crores.

The agitation has resulted in the intermittent closure of the two refineries in Assam--at Gauhati and Digboi--and the continued closure of the Barauni and Bongaigaon refineries.

The Government has taken a number of steps to meet the gap in supply and demand, including import of diesel worth crores of rupees.

Meanwhile, the demand for diesel has gone up steeply on account of a shortfall in power generation, large-scale movement of bulk goods by road instead of rail and the recent drought in several parts of the country.

The growth rate in high-speed diesel consumption in 1979-80 was 12.6% over the previous year.

According to current estimates, the demand for petroleum products is expected to go up to about 52 million tonnes by 1986-87.

Consumption of high-speed diesel and motor spirit during 1979-80 was 9,727 million tonnes and 1,486 million tonnes respectively.

The Government's oil policy was aimed at containing the growth rate in the consumption of petroleum products at the minimum level possible, and at the same time meeting the essential needs of agriculture and industry.

Efforts are being made to maximize indigenous production of crude, both on-shore and off-shore.

CSO: 4220

RISE IN VALUE OF MINERAL PRODUCTION NOTED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 17 Oct 80 p 5

[Text]

THE total value of mineral production in the June 1980, (excluding atomic minerals and minor minerals) was Rs 184.6 crore as against Rs 117.8 crore in June 1979, says PTI quoting official release.

The contribution of mineral fuels in the total value was Rs 129.3 crore or 84 per cent while metallic minerals and non-metallic minerals contributed Rs 15.7 crore or 10 per cent and Rs 9.6 crore or 6 per cent respectively.

Iron ore, copper ore, manganese ore, gold chromite, lead and zinc concentrate and bauxite were the most important constituents of the metallic group of minerals during June 1980.

In the group of non-metallic minerals the important ones were limestone, spatite and phosphorite together, dolomite and magnesite.

A comparison between May and June 1980 shows that the

output of petroleum (crude) increased to 783,000 tonnes from 726,000 tonnes. The production of coal, however, declined to 8.18 million tonnes from 8.82 million tonnes.

Among the metallic minerals the production of copper ore increased by 10 per cent to 138,455 tonnes from 143,091 tonnes. The output of chromite also increased to 29,835 tonnes from 22,917 tonnes.

But the output of iron ore, declined to 2.3 million tonnes from 3.7 million tonnes.

Further, a decline of 15 per cent was recorded in the production of manganese ore from 149,472 tonnes to 126,494 tonnes.

The production of gold also declined to 180 kilograms from 194 kilograms.

The production of lead conc. and zinc conc. declined to 1,172 tonnes and 3,423 tonnes from 1,334 tonnes and 3,808 tonnes respectively.

A fall of 8 per cent was recorded in the production of bauxite from 109,822 tonnes to 101,000 tonnes.

Among the principal non-metallic minerals the production of magnesite increased by 13 per cent to 35,802 tonnes from 31,525 tonnes.

The output of limestone, however, declined to 2.20 million tonnes from 2.33 million tonnes.

The production of spatite declined by 16 per cent to 1,884 tonnes from 2,222 tonnes.

A significant decline of 36 per cent was recorded in the output of phosphorite when it fell to 25,327 tonnes from 39,615 tonnes.

There was also a decline of 16 per cent in the output of dolomite when it fell to 124,702 tonnes from 149,029 tonnes.

LIMITS ON POWER EQUIPMENT IMPORTS ANNOUNCED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 11 Oct 80 pp 1, 7

[Text] Bhopal, Oct. 10 (UNI)--Union Minister of State for Industries Charanjit Chanana today announced that from now onwards only equipment manufactured by BHEL will be allowed in power plants set up in the country.

The imports would be limited strictly to the advancement of technology.

He said the Union Government is considering adopting severe penalty clauses to check non-utilisation of industrial licences by private firms creating artificial shortages. He said that henceforth licences would be given to only those who gave an undertaking for time-bound promotion of ancillaries.

Under the "ancillarisation" scheme, Dr. Chanana said, new big units would be encouraged in the industrially backward areas for buying products of the small-scale units there.

Dr. Chanana said the National Small-Scale Industries Corporation (NSIC) would be allotted areas to monitor the industrialisation in the backward areas through their existing network of the regional offices.

Earlier, Dr. Chanana commissioned the ultra-high voltage laboratory, claimed to be one of the six of its kind in the world at the BHEL. Set up at a cost of Rs five crores, the UHV laboratory would provide special testing facilities for high voltage equipment of BHEL.

CSO: 4220

ASSAM REPORTED TO EXPECT RECORD KHARIF CROP

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 11 Oct 80 p 9

[Text] Gauhati, Oct. 10.--Kharif production in Assam this year is likely to reach a new high of 2.3 million metric tonnes, according to the Director of Agriculture, Mr K. C. Mahanta. The increase over last year's figure is significant despite two waves of flood in July-August.

The bumper production is attributed to special inputs virtually at the doorstep of the farmer. Partially damaged areas were fertilized with urea and sal seedlings replanted where feasible. Out of 2.7 million hectares under agriculture 2.2 million hectares are under kharif crops. The average kharif production was around 220,000 metric tonnes; last year it was lower than the average by 100,000 metric tonnes.

Measures recommended by a Central task force, which visited the State in March, were implemented expeditiously. About 26,000 quintals of high yielding varieties and 13,000 metric tonnes of chemical fertilizer were distributed to farmers.

An additional 300,000 hectares were brought under high-yielding varieties, including 150,000 hectares under dwarf varieties of sal.

A special rabi programme for the production of wheat, mustard, black gram and boro paddy will cover 75,000 hectares. The seed requirement of 54,000 quintals will cost a little over Rs 2 crores and the fertilizer requirement of practically 20,000 metric tonnes Rs 3 crores.

Flood-affected farmers will be given seeds free and subsidized fertilizer.

One rake containing wheat seed has reached Bongaigaon and two rakes are in transit. As regards fertilizer, the State has a stock of 7,000 tonnes and the balance of 23,000 tonnes is being arranged.

CSO: 4220

BRIEFS

INDONESIAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT--Jakarta, Oct. 15. The Indonesian President, Gen. Suharto will visit India and Pakistan at the end of November, diplomatic sources said here today. He had postponed the trip to India earlier this year after the Indian Government decided to recognise the Heng Samrin government in Kampuchea. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 16 Oct 80 p 6]

ALL-INDIA COMMUNISTS' STATEMENT--Calcutta, Oct. 15. The All India Communist Party in a statement today accused Mr Promode Das Gupta, State Secretary of the CPI(M) of trying to revive the old Grand Alliance against Mrs. Indira Gandhi. It is said that at a time when Mrs. Gandhi had initiated anti imperialist policies in the international sphere and was trying to forge closer co-operation with the USSR, Mr. Das Gupta's total opposition plan, embracing all political parties in a coalition against the Congress (I) was deplorable. [as published] It could only gladden the hearts of "American imperialists and their henchmen, the Chinese" the statement said. The AICP called upon all "patriotic forces" to unite and resist the move. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 16 Oct 80 p 9]

SOVIET BUILDING AID--Moscow, Oct. 15. India and the Soviet Union on Tuesday signed a working programme of cooperation in various field of the building materials industry. In particular, the Soviet Union has confirmed its readiness to render technical aid to India in building cement plants with a capacity ranging from 250,000 tonnes to 600,000 tonnes a year and in constructing production lines to turn out haydite gravel, slag wool plates with a synthetic adhesive and sheet slagsital.--PTI. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 16 Oct 80 p 9]

HELICOPTER EXPORT PLANS--Lucknow, Oct. 10. The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is poised for a major breakthrough in exports, according to the HAL Chairman, Group Captain B.K. Kapur. Mr. Kapur told newsmen here that orders for the supply of spares have been received from the Aerospatiale of France and Rolls Royce of England. "The day is not far off when HAL might be exporting complete helicopters and systems to "advanced countries", he said. He said the HAL was at present engaged in finalising its agreement with Malaysia and Burma for export of helicopters and aero equipment. He said the location of a new HAL factory, to be constructed at a cost of over Rs. 12 crores would be finalised soon. To meet the future demands of IAF, the Kanpur factory also would soon raise production to meet the country's requirement of gliders, transport aircraft and aircraft parts. The work on the MIGs and Jaguar projects in HAL factories was in full swing. HAL factories have already made available to the Indian Air Force several hundred highly sophisticated aircraft designed and produced in the country. "We are now engaged in producing air force equipment which could match any other in the world", he said.--PTI and UNI.

[Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 11 Oct 80 p 7]

ANDHRA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER--Hyderabad, Oct. 11.--Mr T. Anjiah was sworn in as Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister here this afternoon, reports UNI and PTI. Earlier in the day, he was unanimously elected leader of the Congress(I) legislature party in place of Mr Chenna Reddy who resigned yesterday as Chief Minister. Mr Anjiah who is from the Telengana region, is the first labour leader to assume Chiefministership of the State. Mr. Anjiah resigned from the Union Cabinet as Minister of State for Labour as soon as he was elected leader of the Congress(I) legislature party. His resignation was accepted by the President, according to a communique issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan this afternoon. The President, now in Bulgaria, gave his consent over the telephone. [Excerpts] [Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 12 Oct 80 p 1]

ASSAM GARO COUNCIL--Shillong, Oct. 15.--The Assam unit of the Garo National Council has demanded immediate merger of the Garo-inhabited areas in Assam with Meghalaya. In a recent memorandum submitted to the Prime Minister, the council had cited specific instances of "discrimination" against the Garo community living in Goalpara and Kamrup districts of Assam. They number over 300,000. The council told the Prime Minister that the Garos were particularly being discriminated against in the matters of language, jobs, education and other socio-economic matters. It said that in violation of Articles 29 and 30 of the Constitution there was an attempt to make Assam a "unilingual" State". [as published] There were "forcible and subtle ways" of imposing Assamese on the Garos and other non-Assamese residents of the State. It mentioned as many as 17 points to substantiate its charges. The memorandum said that the Garos in Assam were not being allowed the privileges of scheduled tribes on the plea that they did not reside in an autonomous district. There was no reservation of seats for them in legislature and Parliament, no appointment of Government jobs and other economic benefits. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 16 Oct 80 p 9]

COMMITTEE ON DETENTIONS--New Delhi, Oct. 15.--Mr Justice Avadh Behari of Delhi High Court is chairman of the three-member advisory committee set up to "review", the detentions under the National Security Ordinance in the capital, reports UNI. The other members of the committee, constituted by Delhi's Lieutenant Governor, Mr Jagmohan, are Mr Justice M. L. Jain and Mr Justice S. S. Chaddha. The committee was constituted on the basis of the recommendations of the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court. The cases would be referred to the committee within three weeks of a person's detention. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 16 Oct 80 p 9]

LABOR CONFERENCE POSTPONED--New Delhi, Oct. 16.--Mr T. Anjiah's exit from the Union Labour Ministry to be Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has resulted in the cancellation of the national labour conference on October 23 and 24. Much was expected to result from the conference, with the Labour Minister throwing out such ideas as a ban on strikes and lockouts in certain situations and derecognition of a union responsible for an unlawful agitation. Now that Mr Anjiah has left for greener pastures, the Labour Ministry again has a temporary incumbent, Mr Bhishma Narayan Singh, the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs. [Excerpt] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 16 Oct 80 p 9]

ASSISTANT NAVAL CHIEF--Commodore S Jain has been promoted to the rank of Rear-Admiral and appointed assistant chief of naval staff at naval headquarters in New Delhi the Defence Ministry announced on Saturday reports UNI. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 12 Oct 80 p 1]

NEW TANKS TESTED--New Delhi, Oct. 27: India is at present evaluating the performance of three main battle tanks, manufactured in the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and West Germany, to decide acquisition of the one most suitable for its armed forces. The tanks, which were being considered along with the Russian T-72, were the British Challenger and the German Leopard. It is believed that India is developing its own new generation tank and that the tank now being acquired would fill the gap till India's own main battle tank was ready. According to Indian defence analysts, India would have to introduce the next generation tank with 120 mm gun by mid or late 80s when its current Vijayanta would start to phase out. PTI has also reported that the Canadian-built twin engine military transport aircraft, Buffalo, is now in India to give demonstrating flights and tests. The Buffalo is reported to one of the three aircraft being considered by the Indian Air Force as a short take off and landing plane to meet the transport requirements of defence services. The other two aircraft under consideration are the USSR's AN-32 and Italian-built G-2--APP. [Text] [Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 28 Oct 80 p 4]

UPPER HOUSE SESSION--The winter session of the Rajya Sabha will start on 17 November according to an announcement made by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat on Wednesday, reports UNI. The session is likely to continue till 19 December, the announcement said. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 16 Oct 80 p 1]

JAGUAR PURCHASE DENIED--New Delhi, Oct. 16.--India is not considering the purchase of the naval version of the Jaguar fighter aircraft from Britain, reports UNI. Official sources today rejected as "baseless and ill-founded" reports from London that India had shown a "strong interest", in the naval version of Jaguar. [as published] The sources said that in fact no such version of the Jaguar existed. All that could be done was to fit the Jaguar with air-to-surface missiles, but then such an aircraft would not be fit for a maritime role. The sources described as "rubbish" the report that the Indian Navy was considering buying the Royal Navy's aircraft carrier, HMS Triumph. The Indian Navy had contacted the Royal Navy about four to five years ago for some spares and machinery for refitting the aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant, the sources added. But since Vikrant has already been refitted there was no question of negotiating with Britain for the purchase of HMS Triumph. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 17 Oct 80 p 9]

JAMIAT YOUTH LEADER--Srinagar, Oct. 16. Police today took into custody the Acting President of the Islami Jamiati-Tulba, Dr. Ayub Thakor, after a raid on a local hotel. A police spokesman said the arrest of the leader of the militant Islamic Youth Wing of the Jamiaat-i-Islami was made as "a precautionary measure". Dr. Thakor took over as the Acting President of the organisation immediately after the police crackdown on the leaders of the Jamiat-i-Islami and militants of its youth wing last August. When he took over replacing Sheikh Tajamul Islam, who was arrested in the crackdown, he was serving as a lecturer on the staff of the Physics Department of the Kashmir University. The University later terminated his service because of "continued absence". The police also arrested Abdul Majid alias Pathan from a hideout in Badshah Chowk area. A functionary of Peoples League, said to be a subversive group, Majid was evading arrest and absconding for the last three months.--PTI. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 17 Oct 80 p 7]

AMBASSADOR TO BONN--Bonn, Oct 10 (PTI)--India's new ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr Ali Mohammad Khusro, presented his credentials to president Karl Carstens at a formal ceremony here yesterday. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Khusro said India had the ability to run turn-key industrial projects in other countries and its capability for exporting traditional as well as industrial goods to developed nations was an established fact. But the access of Indian goods to these countries was restricted by existing tariffs and quotas, he said. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 11 Oct 80 p 3]

UAE OIL ASSURED--New Delhi, Oct. 10.--The United Arab Emirates has assured India of immediate supplies of crude oil in view of difficulties faced by it, reports UNI. This assurance was given by the UAE President, Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan al Nathayyan, to the External Affairs Secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari, on Wednesday. The Sheikh told Mr Bhandari, on a tour of some Gulf countries, that the UAE would not lag behind Kuwait and other Gulf States in helping India meet its difficulties in oil supplies. According to official sources in Moscow, the Soviet Union is also likely to help India meet its oil requirements. The matter, the sources said, may be sorted out by the middle of December, when President Brezhnev is likely to visit India. The sources said Moscow was eager to help New Delhi tide over its oil difficulties caused by the Iran-Iraq war. Iraq has been unable to supply India the quantum of oil it had undertaken to deliver under an agreement between New Delhi and Baghdad, the sources said. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 11 Oct 80 p 9]

MAHARASHTRA VOTING AGE--Bombay, Oct. 19.--The Maharashtra Governor, Mr Sadiq Ali, has issued an ordinance restoring the voting age for the municipal elections in the State to 21 years against the existing provision of 18 years, introduced by the previous Progressive Democratic Front Government last year, reports UNI. The statement appended to the ordinance said that on review, the State Government found that the reduction in the voting age was not in keeping with the spirit of the Constitution, which prescribed 21 years as the age for Assembly elections and to other representative bodies. The electoral rolls of municipal corporations, councils and other local authorities like zilla parishads and panchayat samities were based on the Legislative Assembly electoral rolls, and all future civic elections would be held on this basis, the statement said. An amending Bill is expected to be tabled in the winter session of the legislature at Nagpur. [Text] [Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 19 Oct 80 p 7]

NAGALAND RESIGNATION--Kohima, Oct. 19.--Mr K. L. Chisie, Nagaland's Industries Minister, today resigned from the Naga National Democratic Party Cabinet, reports PTI. Mr Chisie along with Mr Kaito, MLA, resigned from the party and joined the Congress (I). With this, the strength of the Naga National Democratic Party has been reduced to 33 in the 60-member State Assembly. The strength of the Congress (I) is now 27. Mr Chisie tendered his resignation this afternoon following a communication received from the Nagaland Chief Minister Mr J. B. Jasokie, yesterday asking him to submit his resignation with immediate effect. Mr Jasokie charged Mr Chisie with indulging in "dubious activities". In their resignation letters, Mr Chisie and Mr Kaito said they were "convinced of the futility" of continuing in a regional party like the NNDP which had nothing but "politics of groupisms". [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 20 Oct 80 p 7]

AICC GENERAL SECRETARIES--New Delhi, Oct. 19.--Congress (I) president Mrs Indira Gandhi, appointed three new general secretaries to the AICC, reports UNI. They are: Mrs Rajendra Kumari Bajpai, Mr M. Satyanarayana Rao and Mr Kalp Nath Rai. Mrs Maimoona Sultan, M.P., has been appointed in-charge of the foreign affairs department of the AICC. The present three general secretaries are Mr Vasant Dada Patil, Mr S. S. Mohapatra, and Mr G. K. Moopanar. Mr Kalp Nath Rai was till now a joint secretary. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 20 Oct 80 p 7]

MEXICAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT--Mexico City, Oct. 10.--The Mexican President, Mr Jose Lopez Portillo, will pay an official visit to India in January next year, reports Prensa Latina. Announcing this at a meeting of Indian Ambassadors in Latin America the External Affairs Minister, Mr P. V. Narasimha Rao, said that President Portillo would be the guest of honour at the Republic Day parade in New Delhi on January 26 next year. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 11 Oct 80 p 9]

JAMMU, KASHMIR FIRE--Srinagar, Oct. 12.--Dogra Palace, seat of both Houses of the Jammu and Kashmir legislature and their secretariats, was completely razed here today in the third successive fire during the last three days. Fire broke out again early this morning in a wing of the palace. The Chief Minister, Sheikh Abdullah, has appointed a high-level committee to inquire into the cause of the fire which destroyed one of the important historical monuments of Jammu and Kashmir. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 13 Oct 80 p 1]

DELHI POLICE COMMISSIONER--New Delhi, Oct. 12.--The Delhi administration has issued a notification empowering the Delhi Police Commissioner to detain people under the National Security Ordinance, reports PTI. The notification, issued yesterday under sub-section 3 of Section 3 of the Ordinance, delegates the powers of the State Government to the Delhi Police Commissioner. Delhi Police was understood to be finalizing the list of persons to be detained under the Ordinance. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 13 Oct 80 p 13]

MEGHALAYA DETAINEES--Shillong, Oct. 17.--The Meghalaya police have made use of the recently-promulgated National Security Ordinance to arrest two persons here, reports UNI. Police sources said today that the President of the Meghalaya Students' Union, Mr Michael Syiem, and Mr H. S. Shylla were arrested yesterday. PTI adds: Mr Bir Bahadur Singh, MLA (Independent), was today detained under the ordinance in Patna it was officially learnt. He has been lodged in the Patna central jail. This is the first case of detention under the ordinance in Patna. About 41 people have been detained in Uttar Pradesh under the ordinance. An official spokesman said in Lucknow today that the maximum number of arrests were made in Allahabad, where 25 people were arrested. He said no politician was arrested. The spokesman said the detention of 19 people has been confirmed by the Government and their cases would be referred for review to the advisory board in due course. Of the other arrests, seven people were detained in Moradabad, four in Kanpur, three in Lucknow and one each in Bulandshahr and Ghaziabad. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 18 Oct 80 p 3]

POTATOES TO USSR--Moscow, Oct. 17.--India has offered to provide the Soviet Union with 200,000 tonnes of potatoes and 50,000 tonnes of onions to help it meet their shortage, reports UNI. Adverse weather conditions have affected the production of these commodities in the Soviet Union. Details about the supply of these commodities are to be worked out soon. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 18 Oct 80 p 11]

TRADE WITH JAPAN--Tokyo, Oct. 17.--Nippon Steel the world's number one manufacturer of the metal, which earlier this year won Indian orders for three offshore oil platforms, is now leading a consortium of four Japanese firms bidding for a huge order for another oil exploration platform and related facilities to be used off Bombay, industry sources here said today, reports PTI. The Oil and Natural Gas Commission has invited bids to be opened on October 21. The project calls for the construction of a central platform, a superstructure for living and operating quarters, platform substructures and a 75-km long pipeline, besides several other things. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 18 Oct 80 p 11]

CSO: 4220

KAMPUCHEA

KHMER ROUGE JUNGLE CAMP VISITED

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 21 Sep 80 p 7

[Article: "Lunch with Khieu Samphan in a Khmer Rouge Guerrilla Headquarters"]

[Text] Khieu Samphan, the present leader of Democratic Kampuchea (DK), is conducting guerrilla warfare against the Heng Samrin regime which now rules Kampuchea with Vietnamese support. His headquarters is on the move and because of this, a meeting with him as the prime minister is a very unusual occurrence. Nevertheless, 14 journalists from ASEAN countries (four from Singapore, one from the Philippines, three from Japan, three from Malaysia and three from Indonesia--the Indonesia Times, Sinar Harapan and KOMPAS) on Monday afternoon managed to meet with him at his headquarters, at a location in Kampuchea about 80 kms south of the Thai border town of Aranyaprathet, at a place called Ban Nong Pru (Ban means village in Thai).

The road from Aranyaprathet in the direction of the Kampuchean border is paved with asphalt and is in reasonable good condition--only it is very quiet and desolate.

The group of journalists encountered no other conveyances than military vehicles consisting of patrol jeeps with long antennas protruding from the back. At several places there were Thai military bunkers fortified with sandbags and covered with foliage as camouflage. Perhaps because the area was so desolate, the atmosphere was very tense. The group of journalists used three Toyota pickups, part of which were covered with blue plastic. Average rate of travel was 100 kms per hour. After arriving at Ban Nong Pru (south of Aranyaprathet), the procession of vehicles turned east on an unpaved dirt road in the direction of the Kampuchean border. The road appeared to be old, but newly repaired to accommodate vehicular traffic. The speed of the convoy at this point decelerated to an average 15 kms per hour. On both sides of the road, the protuberent vegetation consisted of elephant grass and trees with luxuriant foliage.

The road curved onward and after 15 minutes, we emerged in an open space, a clearing covered with sand, perhaps to keep the area from getting too muddy when it rained. In Kampuchea, it is the rainy season at the present time. Several Khmer Rouge soldiers met the group of journalists and subsequently bade the correspondents to follow them.

To enter the camp of Khieu Samphan, we first crossed a small bamboo bridge spanning a little stream. Beneath the bridge, two girls happened to be bathing. They were entirely submerged with only their heads protruding from the water.

After crossing the bridge, we found ourselves truly at the camp of Khieu Samphan. There were 10 to 20 huts erected as temporary dwellings, with bamboo walls on a framework of poles and with thatch roofs of rice stalks. In front of each dwelling there were what seemed to be bamboo cots. Occupying the cots were small children being watched over by their mothers. The dwellings were surrounded by gardens with cassava, papaya and bananas that appeared possibly newly planted two or three months ago. It also appeared that the camp had been established not too long ago as the administrative headquarters for the guerrillas of Democratic Kampuchea.

There was a quiet atmosphere in the camp as if the Vietnamese threat did not exist. Under a roofed shelter, a group of youths and girls were dancing accompanied by the beat of drums played by children of about 10-12 years of age. Some women were sewing while others were helping in the kitchen, perhaps preparing the noon meal, since we were having lunch that day with Khieu Samphan.

Khieu Samphan himself dwelt apart from this first complex or encampment. We had to go on foot for a little way farther, along a dirt trail which penetrated through the tropical foliage. At several places on both sides of the trail there were guardposts occupied by Khmer Rouge soldiers. The troops appeared quite young, the oldest being approximately 18 years old. After ten minutes of walking in a procession on the trail, we arrived at a clearing beneath some large and tall trees. The sun did not penetrate the foliage and the ground here was bare. The huts also appeared larger, cleaner and arranged in an orderly manner.

In front of one of the huts, some rattan chairs and simple wooden tables covered by plastic tablecloths had been set up. Khieu Samphan was nowhere in sight and we were invited to sit down and wait. We were treated to semi-ripe coconuts. The coconuts had their husks removed and we drank the milk through small holes.

Not long afterwards, Khieu Samphan appeared. He wore a dark blue sportshirt and black trousers with thin white stripes. The cloth appeared to be of good quality. He was smiling and seemed neat in appearance, only with hair that was rapidly turning gray, although he was not an elderly person. He has just turned 49 years of age and is married with two children. He appeared accompanied by Son Sen and was immediately bombarded with questions. Khieu answered them quietly in the Khmer language which was translated by Thiounn Thiounn, the minister of finance and economy for Democratic Kampuchea.

A dining area had already been prepared in a long building. The menu consisted of chicken sate (miniature shish kebab), chicken cooked in a special Cambodian way and fresh, mixed green salad. There were Thai cigarettes and matches. The drinks consisted of "Singha" (lion) beer brewed in Thailand, Fanta soft drinks, Coca-Cola, Sprite and clear water. There was also ice in chunks. While eating, Khieu Samphan continued to answer questions posed by the journalists, discussing such matters as the growing strength of the resistance movement against the Vietnamese colonialists and the inclination of the movement he headed to become a member of ASEAN if invited to do so etc.

While eating, we were waited upon by Khmer Rouge soldiers. Glasses that were almost empty were quickly refilled and the military waiters reacted promptly when anyone needed anything. The lunch ended with cups of coffee. However, as the meal finished, there was already a pouring rain. Although the air turned chilly, it did not detract from the warmth of the meeting.

As the journalists left the area, the rain was subsiding. The only obstacle to regaining the vehicles was the condition of the trail which had become muddy and slippery. The earth stuck to the soles of our shoes, hindering each step by making it heavier to take.

The atmosphere of this spot in Kampuchea that we visited was peaceful and gave no sign of the turmoil in the country. The only indication that there was any danger was the coming and going of Thai military jeep patrols in Thai territory. At several places not far from the border, we saw Thai tank units hidden by the jungle foliage. Only eyes that were alert could have seen them.

9464

CSO: 4213

VIENTIANE DISTRICT OFFICIAL SPEAKS ON SECURITY, OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 28 Jul 80 p 2

[Article by Litthir Sisouvang: "Meuang Kasi District on the Path To Building a New Life"]

[Text] Before joining a ceremony announcing the end of illiteracy of the people of Meuang Kasi District, Mr Somphong Kammoungkhoun, chairman of the district administrative committee said that: Meuang Kasi District is the second district of Vientiane Province when speaking of advancement in those areas where work has been done since liberation.

Kasi is an important district because it is the only gateway to the north, but it encounters many difficulties because it has more mountains than plains. Moreover, it has the right conditions for the activities of American and Chinese accomplices who destroy the peace of the Lao people.

In any case Meuang Kasi District is a revolutionary base area. The people of this locality fought with great success against the French and American imperialists. Meuang Met and Kangpa cantons in this locality were chosen as hero cantons in the National Congress of Heroes in 1979. Therefore the difficulties or epochal obstacles during the past 5 years of building the new life were not a problem for the people of Meuang Kasi District.

First, there is a strong administration, the multi-ethnic people are their own masters, there is firm unity, and no enemy can destroy this. Now guerrilla and public security forces exist throughout Meuang Kasi District. They are spread out in a wide and solid network, and they have been able on their own to drive the enemies who have infiltrated to cause disturbances out of the area completely without having to use regular government troops. In the 2 to 3 years after liberation in 1975 in Meuang Kasi District there were continuous incidents of enemies of the state shooting people, but now things are peaceful and the people can relax and concentrate on construction.

The new life of the people of Meuang Kasi District is a model for the new regime. The farmers joined in establishing solidarity units and labor exchange units. These have developed into 44 agricultural cooperatives. The agricultural cooperative of (Ban) Namon village is an example. Before the cooperative began, there was only 260 kilograms per person. Now with the cooperative the income has increased to 360 per person. They did well in establishing this administration.

The Namkhat Canal was the first irrigation canal constructed in Mouang Kasi District since liberation. After it was constructed it permitted an increased water flow for irrigating an additional 85 hectares of rice. These fields could be worked in both the dry and rainy seasons. For this reason the people believe even more firmly in the leadership of the party. Because of the many good results the people have the courage to expand into new areas. Now the Nakai canal is being built which when completed will be able to irrigate 250 hectares.

There is only one school and one hospital in all of Mouang Kasi District and this hurts the feelings of the people of Mouang Kasi District who have not forgotten the old regime. The people of Mouang Kasi District say: "If it had not been for the new regime our district probably would not have had the opportunity to recover to this extent." Now all the old backwardness is gradually being rid of. The people [were] almost 98 percent literate. Almost all people can read and write. There is 1 secondary school which was built in 1978. The elementary and preelementary schools have been expanded into the countryside far from the villages; they do not have the old worries about the future of the little children. Small clinics have been set up in every canton and in 1980 they built a branch district hospital in an area far from the main hospital to make it more convenient for the people. This development which has made public health more effective has led the people to abandon superstitions and turn to scientific means to take care of their health and practice sanitation. The chairman of the administrative committee of Mouang Kasi District, a very progressive district in Vientiane Province, told this to a group of reporters recently.

Now throughout the municipality of Mouang Kasi District there is electric power for the first time. The people of every village who are striving to transplant and care for rice, the cadres of every section, the workers in the new factories such as lime kilns, clothing shops, weaving shops, power plants and various restaurants have put up signs with the slogan "Strive for progress to honor the 5th National Day on 2 December."

[photo--not reproduced--caption:] Yao hill tribes people come down from the mountains to farm on the plain.

8149

CSO: 4206

CADRE ABUSE OF POWER CRITICIZED

Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 4 Aug 80 p 2

['Party Knowledge' column: "Suppress the Tendency To Oppress the Masses"]

[Text] In a system of exploitation of man by man, the oppression shows the true nature of the society. In the feudal system, all rights of the workers, including the right to life are shamelessly trampled on by the feudalists, openly with no attempt at concealment. In the capitalist system the people of the ruling class are always talking about "equality," "sympathy," "human rights," but actually this shows clearly that the people of the ruling class and the wealthy have a monopoly of all rights in every field. The workers always suffer in poverty and oppression.

In our present system everyone has been completely liberated. The workers have been transformed into the rulers of the society. Our party and government consider that reinforcing the right to collective mastery of the people is an important problem. Therefore they have done everything possible to make it convenient for the individual to exercise his right to collective mastery. Our government is a government of the people, by the people and for the people. Therefore in our socialist system we must eradicate the tendency to oppress the masses and absolutely not let it expand. But there are still a number of cadres and members of the party who have not completely overcome the tendency to "suppress people."

There are some people who have openly and ruthlessly oppressed others. They have browbeaten them, beaten them, imprisoned them, searched their houses, seized their property illegally, trumped up charges in order to arrest and imprison people they disliked....

This increasing oppression of the masses is in orders. The orders are given with the appearance of "legality," because in accomplishing one's duties one can issue instructions that are appropriate but are carried out carelessly. In some cases the cadres in miserable, low positions get authority delegated by the organizations by means of political, economic, or social means and they hide behind an appearance of legality. In addition they use the principle of upholding the party or the power of the state to oppress the people. In other cases it is not the cadres of any particular level but those who use the trust of the upper echelons to browbeat people.

The victims are the low-ranking cadres, workers, government officials, farmers and other working people both within and outside the party. The reason they are victimized is because they disagree with, protest, criticize or complain about the illegal acts of others.

When the oppressors are criticized, they do not respond. They keep silent, but they look for an opportunity to corrupt good people again, make mistakes even worse, and turn small offenses into big ones.... The disciplinary steps to be taken from this point would be: bring charges, demote, expel.... In some cases the tendency toward oppression manifests itself as unfairness, for example, if he will not discuss promotions, positions, or salaries and if he never praises people or changes duties which are not suitable for a certain profession. This oppression makes the person feel isolated and makes it difficult for his children to find work and study etc.

The phenomena of oppression are clear violations of the people's civil rights and their right of collective mastery.

8149

CSO: 4206

COLUMNIST CRITICIZES DENG XIAOPING, U.S. VISIT

Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 2 Aug 80 p 3

[Article by Kh. Phao Siphandon: "Where Will Deng Xiaoping Take China?"]

[Text] Early in 1979 the Chinese reactionary powerholders and great nation expansionists agreed to establish diplomatic relations with the American imperialists. The Chinese powerholders had just agreed when Carter invited Deng Xiaoping, representing the Chinese Party and State, to visit the United States as soon as possible. In February, Deng Xiaoping, accompanied by his clique and retinue, traveled to the United States to personally solidify American ties with the behinds of the imperialists. The head of the New China News Agency followed their behinds in order to write flattering articles about Deng Xiaoping at every point in the visit. When they arrived at the airport they received a large welcome and Deng Xiaoping smiled constantly with happiness. Carter always appeared happy beyond description because he had realized his dream of getting in with the head of Chinese international reactionaries. Therefore, he put everything including his honor and reputation into welcoming Deng Xiaoping.

During the visit and the many discussions, Carter was able to grasp the weak points of the Chinese expansionists. In particular he was able to grasp Deng's thinking. Carter praised him by saying "If you were an American, we could not have an understanding." On hearing Carter say that, Deng's nose grew to the size of that of an American, and his arms became longer. The Americans clapped loudly and Deng became more puffed up and stretched out to show he was bigger than the rest of the world. After this the NCNA chief reported to the masses on relations with America. He spoke repeatedly about the state of the world and of Asia particularly Indochina. He used Carter's words in praise of Deng to show all those listening that Deng was very skillful. He spoke until the applause of those listening broke in.

The Chinese big-nation expansionist international reactionaries would have died had others made such flattering remarks like that, especially Deng himself. For them, "songs of praise bring sounds of joy." They do not think of the misery of the people who do not have houses, food to eat, or clothing to wear. They blame "the rightist tendencies of 1957," the "Liu Shaoqi clique" and the "gang of four" for destroying Chinese socialism, impoverishing the Chinese people, and leading the country toward capitalism. Actually it is themselves who are thousands of times worse than the "gang of four," "Liu Shaoqi," and those with rightist tendencies. They are the ones who brought the nation of more than 950 million Chinese back to the road to capitalism, which is a road of blood and tears. That road was destroyed by many Chinese revolutionaries but they have long been forgotten.

COLUMN DISCUSSES VODK, KOREAN REUNIFICATION, LPDR NONALINEMENT

Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 30 Jul 80 p 2

['Letters Answered' Column: "China and the Kampuchean Problem"]

[Text] Onkeo Photyavongsin from the Dontiou School in Vientiane asked the editor for answers to the following problems:

1. What side are the Chinese on in Kampuchea now? Why is there still a Radio Democratic Kampuchea?

[Answer] After the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary group was defeated early last year, the Beijing powerholders lost an important prop in their strategy for expansion. Now although all the territory of Kampuchea is in the hands of the Kampuchean people under the leadership of the National United Front for the National Salvation and the Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea with Heng Samrin as president, nevertheless the Chinese powerholders still conspire with the imperialists to support the remnants of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary group and other reactionaries in Thailand and resist the revolutionary forces in Kampuchea. While they are using Thai territory to resist the people of Kampuchea, they are also trying to create tension along the Thai-Kampuchean border. And they have slandered Vietnam greatly. However, the situation in Kampuchea is irreversible. Progressive people throughout the world understand the problem of Kampuchea and have not forgotten the crime of those who executed 3 million people. The economy, the culture, and the society were totally destroyed. Therefore even though they have tried every way to support the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary remnants as their lackeys in causing trouble for the new Kampuchea, they have not achieved anything except to lose strength.

The problem of Radio Democratic Kampuchea is not anything unusual. This station is in southern China. The Chinese set it up and run it.

2. Why are North and South Korea not able to reunite? How many years will it be before they reunite?

[Answer] This problem was caused by the American seizure of South Korea. North Korea has many times recommended suitable rational methods of reunification but without result because America and the international reactionaries prevented it.

They pressured the administration of South Korea and have kept the country divided for a long time for their own advantage.

We can say that the two sections of Korea will certainly reunite. Whether this takes long or not depends on the strength of the Korean people who will force the American imperialists to withdraw their army from South Korea and stop intervening in the international affairs of Korea so that the two sections of Korea can solve this problem on their own.

3. How will our country reach socialism without going through capitalism? Why are we nonaligned? After their national democratic revolutions, how quickly did other socialist countries advance to socialism?

[Answer] The great victory of the October Revolution in the Soviet Union brought a new era: "The Era of Socialism." The socialist system is better than any other system. Therefore in a short time many countries have advanced to socialism. After our country's successful national democratic revolution there was no other path to choose. If we had followed capitalism, the people would never be free from tyranny. Our nation would never achieve complete independence because it is small in size and the feudalist imperialists would oppress it greatly. If we want to make our nation prosperous quickly, we must maintain our independence and depend on the forces of the modern era, that is, the forces of world socialism and those struggling for peace, independence, democracy and socialist development.

The other socialist countries develop according to their own special goals and the special conditions found in each country.

The meaning of the phrase "nonalignment" is that we should not join any military groups such as NATO or the member nations of the Warsaw Pact. Our country has not signed a treaty to join any military group. The only treaties we have signed are bilateral treaties of peace and friendship. Therefore, our country is nonaligned.

8149

CSO: 4206

NEW TAX POLICY: LAND OWNERS, NOT RENTERS, TO PAY TAX

Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 15 Aug 80 pp 1,3

[Editorial: "We must Firmly grasp and Properly Comply with the New Tax Policy"]

[Text] In order to promote the agricultural tasks to advance with progress, there is a need for an appropriate and fair policy guideline for expanding these tasks, as well as on agricultural taxes. Such a guideline is fundamental and essential. Realizing that the previous policy on agricultural taxes carried with it some weak points that were not consistent with the party guidelines nor the actual situation of recent agricultural production in our country, the Council of Ministers has therefore recently agreed to revise the policy on agricultural tax and later submitted the results to a joint session of the Standing Committees of the Supreme People's Council and the Council of Ministers for their official approval.

The purpose of all this is to promote and strengthen our agricultural production; to encourage farmers to organize intensive agriculture; to increase productive efficiency; to expand the production season and rice field acreage; to promote the decision to turn to agricultural cooperatives; to create conditions that will facilitate the collection of agricultural taxes; to purchase food supplies during the harvest season promptly; and to become self-sufficient in terms of food supplies within each region and province.

The new agricultural tax policy is fundamentally a revision of the previously used policy. However, special attention needs to be focused on some new policies. It specifies that it is a land tax. The owners or users of the land whether they are private farmers or on agricultural cooperatives, state farms, and other agricultural sites must all pay agricultural taxes. Land owners who rent their farms out to other farmers are responsible for paying taxes, while renters are exempt from taxation. Because the taxes are calculated based on the size of land, the taxes paid are therefore in proportion to its acreage in hectares and its production output, with no deductions for seed and without the 100 kg deduction for each family member as was the case previously.

In order to properly tax farmers according to the productivity of their land, farms are classified in three categories; and three tax brackets. First, the good fields that produce 1,600 kilograms of rice or more per hectare pays a tax of 100 kilograms of rice per hectare; secondly, average fields that produce between 1,300 and 1,600 kilograms per hectare pay 80 kilograms of tax per hectare; thirdly,

the poor fields that produce less than 1,000 kilograms of rice per hectare pay only 60 kilograms of tax per hectare. The above determination of production output is estimated from an average output to encourage all cooperatives and farmers to attempt to increase their production efficiency on each hectare so that it exceeds the determined production level. As a result, the excess will then be returned to these people. For those paddies that are measured to be less than a hectare, they are estimated as fractions of a hectare and the taxes are accordingly calculated. For example, a one-fifth hectare of land of whatever type of soil will incur one-fifth of the tax that is incurred by land having the same type of soil. This type of tax is collected only from the annual wet rice crop, but not from the dry-season crop. Those farms that produce less than 1,000 kilograms of corn per hectare will pay 60 kilograms of corn per hectare, just as with the rice tax. For industrial or fruit trees that are planted collectively for commercial use, there must be paid a 6 percent tax in cash or in the form of production output.

In addition, the new tax policy also mentions the policy on tax exemption and deferments on any type of production that properly reflects the true nature of the state and party policy. For example, any agricultural cooperative that has been officially recognized by the district will have its taxes dropped by 7 percent since its production will be added to the cooperative's or the districts collective storage. The cooperative may be allowed to divide the rebate among its members if their incomes are decreased while they farmed privately. For those cadres and combatants who have been wounded or sacrificed and who have been so certified by the district administration will have an exemption of 30 kilograms of rice. In tribal minority areas where agricultural activities have not yet expanded to capacity and the average production per capita is less than 100 kilograms of rice or corn, the residents will be exempt from taxation. Farmers who start to cultivate abandoned rice fields will be exempt from taxation for three years, regardless of their production output. On the contrary, those farmers who clear the land by killing trees will pay taxes because they grossly destroy forests. The final case of exemption includes floods, droughts, infestation, or wild animals, which destroy a great amount of crops.

The above are fundamentals of the new agricultural tax policy set forth by the party and state, and all cadres, party members and all levels of the administrative authorities must study and practice them accordingly during the coming harvest season. The regulations contained in the new policy are precisely in accord with the party guidelines and the actual condition of production in our country. However, the appropriateness of the policy will not bring about actual results without proper practice by all cadres involved. This means all cadres involved must firmly grasp the fundamentals of the new tax policy before we can properly practice them, and, later make the party's fair and correct policy truly serve the interests of the people.

9013

CSO: 4206

KEO-UDOM LOCATION, RESOURCES DESCRIBED

Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 1 Aug 80 p 3

[Excerpts] Keo-Oudom is one of 15 districts in Vientiane Province. On the northeast it borders Meuang Hom District and Meuang Vang Viang District. In the southeast it borders Meuang Thoulakhom District. In the west it borders Meuang Phon Hong District. The people of this district generally live in villages along the Nam Lik River and the Nam Ngum River. Most make a living farming or fishing.

Keo-Oudom is a district rich in cereal grains and valuable natural resources, which are important in developing the nation. The district has three different types of terrain: plains, mountains, and the Nam Ngum River Basin. It has land suitable for cultivation, raising animals, and fishing. It is important for the economy because it produces electricity for factories and for agriculture in the future. The Nam Ngum River Basin is as broad as the eye can see and is good for fishing and pisciculture.

In the dense mountain jungles there is valuable timber which can be used to build housing. Under the old regime this district was called Thin Keo Subprovince. The capitalists invested a lot here hoping to take out the important natural resources. Although Meuang Keo Oudom is mostly mountains and river basins, they have set up one experimental agricultural cooperative in Ban Viang Kham Village, Long Lik Canton. So that the agricultural cooperative would be a model for the district, the district authorities pay close attention so that it would expand and develop in all areas. This district has also established seven fishing cooperatives. Every day the members of each of these cooperatives promote a spirit of responsibility for catching fish to supply state outlets in Vientiane.

8149

CSO: 4206

LUANG PRABANG DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION REPORTED

Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 1 Aug 80 p 2

[Text] In carrying out the directive of the party and state that "Education must be one step before other tasks," all concerned levels of the administration of Luang Prabang Province and others have in the past 5 years striven to greatly expand education.

In the 1979-80 school year just past there were 536 primary schools with 25,821 students throughout Luang Prabang Province. Of these 1,829 were in the 5th grade. There were 25 secondary schools with 2,669 students, and of these 486 were in the 3rd year. There were 3 schools of upper secondary education with 275 students and of these 138 were in the 3rd year. On the average there is one primary school for every two villages, one secondary school for every three cantons, and one upper secondary school for every three districts. One out of every 8 or 9 people is studying in a general academic school.

In this year's final examinations 73.92 percent of the primary school students passed, in secondary school 94.42 percent passed, and in upper secondary 91.21 percent passed.

When these figures are compared with 1975, throughout Luang Prabang Province only 32 percent of the people were literate, and these were primarily the children of the privileged ruling class and were trained to serve the administration. The children of the multi-ethnic workers were not as well educated as they should have been.

If you go back 35 years there were only 305 elementary school students in Luang Prabang Province. Of these 80 completed their primary education. There was only one secondary school, and the headmaster was French. Ten years later the number of elementary students increased to 1,531, and of these 270 completed their primary education. The curriculum was that of the French colonialists. Until 1960 the upper secondary school was located with the old secondary school. The instruction was in a foreign language and the courses encouraged the young people to live like westerners.

These figures show that education in the old regime expanded slowly and served only a small number of people. The average person was not involved.

But after liberation education in this province expanded greatly, with a scientific and mass content. Therefore the children of all the people without regard to class or race are educated together, and the people of every village in Luang Prabang Province strive to contribute their funds and labor and build a school in their village. The government cooperates in supplying teachers and lessons as they are needed. For this reason Luang Prabang Province has made advances in education.

8149

CSO: 4206

LETTER WRITER REPORTS WORKER ABSENTEEISM, BUDGET SHORTFALLS

Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 2 Aug 80 p 2

['Letters Answered' column: "Raising Living Standards"]

[Excerpts] Today SIANG PASASON answers a letter from Bounyao, a worker in the Champassak Province bakery. The essence of the letter involves the following problems:

1. There are a number of cadres and workers who seek self-reliance by using duty hours to make money. Sometimes they are gone a day, sometimes a week. What does the editor think of this problem?

[Answer] In the almost 5 years that our government and people have been under the brilliant and clear-sighted leadership of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, the nation has been protected and built up successfully in many areas; but there are many evils left by the old regime. Not only that, but each year there have been natural disasters and continuing attempts by the imperialists and international reactionaries to destroy our new system. This has meant that our standard of living has not recovered to the extent desired by all. Faced with the hardships of the initial advances toward socialism, some cadres and workers, lacking discipline, have taken advantage of and neglected their duties and work. When this sort of thing happens, it must be stopped. The editor feels it is wrong to use duty hours to be self-reliant and go make money. What should be done is to arrange to increase the production of every workplace, organization, and family by setting a daily production schedule which would assure the long-range living standard and the jobs of the cadres and organizational workers.

2. There is money budgeted to pay for each phase of work, but when it is needed for disbursement, there is none. When that phase ends, there is no money. Why is this?

[Answer] This question is not clear. But the editor feels that it might be because of the method of operation of the administrative cadres or the finance service. Usually there is a monthly accounting for income and disbursements. This is summarized and reported to higher levels; that is, other units are informed. If there is nothing in writing and no good reason, then this is an important problem and something should be set up to correct it. This will protect the assets of the state and prevent wrong-doing.

8149

CSO: 4206

FACTORY'S PRODUCTION PROBLEMS LAID TO OLD EQUIPMENT, LACK OF SPARE PARTS

Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 14 Aug 80 pp 2,3

[Article by Litthi Sisonvong: "At the Lao Soap Powder Factory"]

[Text] A worker walked into the factory, saying, "For your information, a worker at my cell requests a leave to attend the funeral for his mother-in-law."

"When did she pass away?"

"Last night."

"Go and report this to the higher-ups. Help him if he needs help; let him take some soap powder home for use; allow him to take leave," the factory manager said before he turned to me to resume the conversation.

In actuality, this factory doesn't have much. It had just resumed its operation not even five years ago, i.e., since August 1977. Worse, our factory is old. However, we have contributed substantially in maintaining and building the new regime in the last 5 years. In 1977 in only four months, we produced 130 tons of soap powder. In 1978 it produced 430 tons and 641 tons of soap powder in 1979, in which year the production exceeded the expected goal by 6.8 percent.

The factory's problems can be attributed to the fact that all raw materials and spare parts were produced by capitalist countries, whose capitalists did not wish us well and therefore constantly obstructed our production.

Bouala, a member of the board of directors told me the following history of the factory. Built in 1968 and completed in 1970, the factory was in operation until 1974 when it halted its production. The reason was because the ruling power at that time did not promote utilization of domestic products. On the contrary, they admired and worshipped imported goods so much that "the domestic factory could no longer stay in business." Following the liberation, the party and state realized the importance of this factory and allocated funds to repair and reopen it in 1977.

In mid-1978 the Lao Soap Powder Factory became an enterprise operated by the state, which controlled two accounts, i.e., first, planning production and supplying raw materials, and, secondly, by fairly distributing products, determining prices, and meticulously controlling the factory's input and output.

The director further introduced me to Vilai Bounsai, an experienced technician who has been struggling with the factory since its first day of operation more

than 10 years ago. Vilai was nominated for an award for his excellent service at the factory's Fifth National Day Anniversary Celebration. Vilai works at the factory's laboratory. The factory covers a lot of ground and houses various machines, such as sorting and mixing machines. Moreover, there were soap powder bags there at the factory that had been produced there. There were ten workers hard at work. Saiyasit, head of the production unit, said to me, "We produce soap powder in two shifts each day, day and night shifts, and altogether we are in operation 12 hours a day."

My tour of the factory came about after a conversation with the factory manager. Vilai led me to other bagging rooms where many female workers, all wearing red-flower patterned aprons, were bagging soap powder. They all looked so young and beautiful, and told me shyly, while busy working, "We are building production to welcome the National Day and Fifth Anniversary, 2 December."

9013

CSO: 4206

ANNUAL RICE CROP OUTLOOK CALLED GOOD, REGIONAL PESTS NOTED

Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 14 Aug 80 pp 1,2

[Editorial: "We must Attentively Nurture our Annual Rice Crop"]

[Text] The overall outlook for our people's annual rice crop has up to now been better than any past year, inspite of unseasonal weather which brought heavy rains, which caused flash floods in some areas, but very little rain fall, insufficient for the crops, in other areas. Nearly every agricultural cooperative, collective farm and experimental intensive agriculture unit has completed its transplantation, while some areas have already seen considerable maturity in their crop.

From the situation just described, if our farmers consistently care for their crops, and without really bad weather conditions, it is certain that this year's crop will undoubtedly bring us a good harvest. This, therefore, will fulfill the three-year plan for economic expansion, set forth by the party and state, which considers the tasks of agriculture and forestry as fundamental.

The principal task for all our people at this time, therefore, is the caring for and nurturing the rice crop at both high-land and low-land farms. This task mainly includes weeding, fertilizing, and checking the water level in the paddies so that the level is in accordance with the principles of the new scientific techniques. For example, weeding is needed 20-45 days after the crop has been transplanted in order to prevent the loss of nutrients in the crop or to prevent the overshadowing by the weeds. On the other hand, 16-17 buckets of liquid manure is needed when the crop is 21-45, and 64 days old respectively. In addition, the farmers must maintain a high level of water in the paddy at the early stage of the crop, and later drain it out when the crop is mature. The crop needs its second fertilization shortly before the harvest.

Concomitant with the above tasks, the eradication of pests is also a task that requires special attention. This is because every year our people's crops are destroyed not only by floods or droughts, but also by a great number of pests, especially rodents in the north, caterpillars in the Vientiane plains, and various types of insects in the central region and the south, such as crickets, aphids, and grasshoppers, all of which are very dangerous to our people's rice crops. If we fail to find a way to exterminate them before or during their infestation, our people's crops run the risk of great danger. Every agricultural cooperative, state collective farm, and various intensive agriculture units must

therefore jointly organize a separate branch to specifically carry out research and to coordinate with other involved sectors in order to search for a means for timely and effective extermination of these pests.

Another problem that must not be neglected is the prevention of natural disasters, such as droughts and floods. This is because these two types of disasters have become threats to our people's crops in the past 3-4 years. This year's crops may experience another disaster unless we set up excellent preventive measures. Our hopes for a good harvest will be entirely destroyed once these disasters attack, which will delay the completion of the economic expansion plan outlined by the state and party for another year. Worse, we will not be able to normalize the living conditions of the multi-ethnic population.

All the above tasks represent the joint duties that the entire party, the armed forces and the people must perform. They must regard these duties as their own, while taking part according to their individual capacity and ability. They must mobilize all involved, especially cooperative members and farmers, that when they become the masters in caring for and nurturing this year's crop in a planned manner, that only then will the crop withstand natural disasters. This is an important factor for producing a bountiful crop.

9013

CSO: 4206

LPLA ANIMAL HUSBANDRY FARM DESCRIBED

Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 15 Aug 80 p 2

[Article by Thoetthoun Thavisai: "The Nongtha Animal Husbandry Farm"]

[Excerpts] The cadres and combatants who are stationed at the Nongtha Animal Husbandry Farm Unit I in Vientiane, under the Logistics Department of the Lao People's Liberation Army [LPLA] are the people who for several years were fighting face-to-face with the enemies at various fronts in the country. Many of them were wounded and are disabled to various degrees. However, at present, these people have one thing in common, that is, they all are combatants in the battle field of economic development. If their situation were compared to the war situation, we can say that even though the degrees of struggle are different, the degrees of courage in these combatants are comparable.

The Nongtha Animal Husbandry Farm is situated on a plateau north of the Vientiane suburbs. It was formerly a mango grove of less than 100 mango trees and belonged to a foreign capitalist, who, following the national liberation, fled from Laos, thus leaving this piece of land deserted.

It was not until 14 May 1976 when the LPLA Logistics Department surveyed the land and found the spot to be useful for raising animals. The LPLA therefore organized a labor force and brought a number of animals, which included 400 pigs, 1,200 ducks, and over 1,000 chickens from other farms in order to open up the deserted land and to build an animal husbandry farm at Nongtha.

When they first arrived at Nongtha, both the workers and animals lived under the mango trees, but immediately afterwards the cadres and combatants built homes and animal pens. Soon afterwards all animals were housed and were 100 percent insured from loss.

Beginning animal husbandry by utilizing natural methods, the Nongtha Farm was gradually turning toward scientific methods of raising animals. Different breeds of animals were imported from abroad. When confronting unfamiliar breeds of animals that have been raised through modern scientific methods, these cadres and combatants are not at all discouraged to raise them better; they work, study, and improvise at the same time. Following their experiments in actual practice, they will have gradually raised their level of technical skills. At present, they are capable of preparing various formulae of concentrated animal foods, and are capable of preventing animal plagues by exploiting domestic materials and equipment with considerable success.

According to the report given by Champa Mounivong, deputy director of the farm and head veterinarian, the Nongtha Farm is now capable of breeding, housing, raising and providing medical treatment to animals there by depending mainly on domestic resources. The number of animals mentioned earlier has now increased to 900 breeding pigs that within a year will produce 1,200 piglets; 11,000 mature breeding chickens which will produce over 800,000 chicks a year; and over 800 mature ducks that will produce many thousands of ducklings in a year. Moreover, the Nongtha Farm performs its duty by supplying over 168,000 kilograms of meat per month to several government departments. In addition, it is also the center for supplying various types of the above animal breeds to these departments, localities and military regions throughout the country.

Although the Nongtha Farm is not an animal husbandry enterprise, it has accomplished several duties in accordance with the Logistics Department's guidelines, i.e., to supply breeding animals and meat.

At present, the cadres and combatants at the Nongtha Farm are busy learning science and technology in order to convert the farm into an enterprise in the future, and to prepare to welcome the National Day and the nation's Fifth Anniversary on 2 December.

9013

CSO: 4206

BRIEFS

FIELD CRABS KILLED--At the end of July the agricultural cadres of Meuang Sisatanak District of the City of Vientiane undertook a drive to eliminate plant pests which were destroying the rice of the people of various villages. During this time they destroyed plant pests, particularly by catching crabs, on more than 700 hectares. They caught 4.395 tons. Now the rice plants of the people of this district which were being destroyed have come back to normal. It has been reported that while the agricultural cadres were leading the people in destroying the plant pests they also provided the people with a quantity of chemical fertilizer to be sprayed on the beautiful green fields so that they would grow. [Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 31 Aug 80 p 1] 8149

LOUANG NAMTHA PUBLIC WORKS--In the first 6 months of 1980 the cadres and workers of various sections affiliated with the Department of Communications, Public Works, and Transportation of Louang Namtha Province strove to perform their specialized tasks diligently, and communications became the cutting edge to promote the transportation of goods to serve the production base. This improved the standard of living of the multi-ethnic people. In this period they transported various kinds of goods and building materials amounting to more than 35 tons, repaired more than 70 disabled vehicles, and built 14 warehouses. They also worked with the multi-ethnic people to repair dozens of kilometers of damaged roads and built a new road 23 kilometers long. They built 98 new bridges and repaired the path from Meuang Namtha District to Meuang Viang Phoukha District which is 70 kilometers long. [Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 29 Jul 80 p A4] 8149

KHONG SEDONE, SARAVANE LITERACY--On the 4th of July the administration and the Committee for Eliminating Illiteracy of Meuang Khong Sedone District, Saravane Province announced the basic elimination of illiteracy to the multi-ethnic people of their district. There were 6,118 people who overcame illiteracy. This achieved the standard of 98 percent of the people targeted. The education of the people was this successful because of the mobilization and leadership of all levels of the administration. In addition the people in all localities saw that only by gradually raising the level of knowledge and capability in cultural matters would demands of the various activities in building socialism be met. Meuang Khong Sedone District is the first district of Saravane Province to officially announce the elimination of illiteracy. [Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 23 Jul 80 pA5] 8149

SITUATION IN BALUCHISTAN NORMALIZED

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 27 Oct 80 p 4

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Oct 26: In Baluchistan, the largest province of Pakistan, the land of brave Baluch and Pashtoon tribesmen, the government has normalised the situation following the protracted efforts for the last three years.

The process of normalisation was completed recently when the Governor of Baluchistan, Lt-Gen Rahimuddin Khan, distributed the financial assistance among the heirs of those tribesmen who lost their lives or suffered injuries during the period of 1973-77.

The Federal Government has allocated Rs 250 crore for the affected people in Baluchistan. The Provincial Governor has distributed Rs 47,00,000 out of the total amount allocated by the Federal Government so far. Governor Rahimuddin Khan visited remote Kalat and Kohlu agencies and distributed the money where the tribesmen held the traditional grand Jirgas. The Governor also attended the assembly of the tribesmen and addressed them. He reiterated the Government's determination that the people of Baluchistan are citizens of the country and added that Government will adopt all measures for the development of the people of the province.

The rehabilitation of the affected tribesmen was described by the tribesmen as a landmark in the history of Pakistan. The Governor said that it is a significant step taken by President Zia-ul-Haq for the normalisation of the situation during the past three years. Another significant announcement made by the Governor while addressing the tribesmen was renewal

of the general amnesty earlier declared by the President for those who left their homes during the disturbed conditions in Baluchistan. The Governor expressed the hope that the said affected people will avail of the general amnesty and return to their homes. He assured such people that the Government will also help them rehabilitate.

He also stressed the people of Baluchistan to sink their mutual differences in the interest of the country.

The Government have been taking various steps towards the normalisation of law and order situation in Baluchistan since 5th July, 1977 culminating in the abolition of the special court which was established for the trial of Hyderabad conspiracy case, and release of all the political detainees involved in this case. This major step was followed by other similar steps such as withdrawal of all criminal cases against political detainees involved in Hyderabad conspiracy case, remission of unexpired portion of sentences of all persons convicted in bomb blast cases etc with the exception of one or two old cases which also are under examination.

In March, 1978 President Zia-ul-Haq declared general amnesty for the persons who left their homes on account of disturbed conditions in the province. Although the last date of the general amnesty was declared June 30, 1978, but the concession was extended. Similarly the Government laid down a liberal policy with regard to the possession of arms by the persons who had to leave their homes due to the disturbed conditions during 1973-77. The Govern-

ment through an advertisement regarding their intentions to provide suitable assistance to the affected persons for their rehabilitation and for some students and government servants who abandoned their educational career or jobs on account of the disturbed conditions. In pursuance of the broad decision taken by President Zia-ul-Haq who earlier met a large number of leaders of public opinion and notables in Baluchistan, and having obtained their opinion on the problems pertaining to Baluchistan on 28th July the Government announced following decisions for the rehabilitation of those persons affected during 1973-77:

1. All persons who have any claim in respect of losses suffered by them during the disturbed conditions in Baluchistan during the period 1973-77 will register their claims in their respective tehsil/sub-divisional or district headquarter as the case may be.

The admissibility of registration of claims will extend to all affected persons who claim to have suffered losses during the said period.

2. The respective Government representatives at these levels will receive the claims for these losses upto September 30, 1978.

3. The Provincial Government will convene special Jirgas at the divisional level before or soon after the 30th September, 1978 to verify the claims submitted by the affected persons.

4. The special Jirgas will comprise three representatives of local persons and three nominees of the Provincial Government.

3. After the verification of the claims by the Jirgas, recommendation will be submitted to the Provincial Government for the rehabilitation and financial assistance.

The announcement proved fruitful and the 97 per cent tribesmen who had left their homes returned to their homes. They include the brother of Sardar Atullah Khan Mengal, the former Chief Minister of Baluchistan, Meharullah Khan Mengal and some other students. The affected persons also filed their claims for the rehabilitation and financial assistance, and the Provincial Government received about 6000 claims from the affected people.

The extension of the last date for filing claims has also created confidence among the tribesmen over the Government's policy of rehabilitation and more tribesmen are filing claims.

Raja Ahmed Khan, Adviser to the Governor, said that 32 more Marri tribesmen have also returned to their homes. Hussain Bakhsh Mengal, an old tribesman who also received financial assistance, described the scheme of rehabilitation as an era of reconciliation which has dawned in Baluchistan. He said that for the first time the Government has established direct contact with the tribesmen in this

sensitive province. He said that it is also a good sign that the Government has not used the Sardars as intermediary. Another notable tribesman Mir Nihal Khan Marri who is also the Chairman of the Kohlu Local Council said that it is for the first time that the Government and the people of Baluchistan are solving the problems particularly the problems of the displaced persons in a constructive and positive manner.—**AFP Feature Service**

CSO: 4220

ALIEN ELEMENTS TO BE DEALT WITH IN IRON HAND

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 29 Oct 80 p 3

[Text]

BATKHELA (Malakand Agency), Oct 28: Lt.-Gen. Fazle Haq, Governor of NWFP has said that Pakistan was an Islamic and ideological state and there was no room for propagation of any alien ideas.

Addressing a largely attended public meeting here yesterday, the first day of his three-day tour of Malakand Division, he said that the Government was aware of the activities of a handful of elements inimical to Islam and ideology of Pakistan. The Government had shown enough restraint and patience and these elements would no longer be allowed in their pursuits. From now on these "snakes in the grass" would be dealt with an iron hand, he declared amidst prolonged applause.

Lt.-Gen. Fazle Haq stated that some of these elements had received training abroad. All their activities were harmful and detrimental to the nation and the country, and were aimed to destroy the development projects and torture the innocent people of the country.

The people on this occasion loudly and unanimously voiced that these enemies of the country should not be spared and should be taken to task immediately at all costs.

He said that adequate action against these elements at national level was on the anvil. With the help and cooperation of the people these inimical forces would be uprooted, he said.

The Governor advised the parents to ensure that their school and college going children paid their full attention towards their studies. The Government was spending millions of rupees and producing doctors and engineers and this vital and national asset would have to be preserved from the machinations of those who were out to exploit them for selfish ends and political motives.

He said heavy national responsibilities also devolved on parents to save this investment.

KARACHI POPULATION INCREASING AT HIGH RATE

Karachi DAWN in English 26 Oct 80 p 8

[Text]

Papers analysing various aspects of architectural planning in a changing world were presented here at a seminar organised by the Institute of Architects of Pakistan as part of the Aga Khan Award for Islamic Architecture at Hotel Inter-continental yesterday.

The theme of the seminar was: Urbanisation — challenge for the Third World.

In his paper, Mr Z. A. Nizami, Director-General, KDA, outlined the grave impact of the tremendous growth rate of Karachi whose population was expected to be around eight million in 1985 and between 12 and 15 million by 2,000 A.D. Karachi's population, he said, was growing at the rate of six to seven per cent and at present this City had over six million people.

Giving comparative figures of population growth from 4,35,000 in 1941 to 35,00,000 in 1973, he said, the abnormal increase in population has brought Karachi to the threshold of urban crisis "causing serious deficiency in water supply and throwing the sewerage capacity out of gear".

He said a population of more than six million was getting only 100 million gallons of water daily and 30 per cent of the households have got individual water connections.

He said the position was still worse as the total sewerage capacity was 40 million gallons per day.

Referring to housing deficiency caused by the influx of population from rural areas, he said, one-fourth of the population was living in sub-integrated urban settlements. Similarly, the existing 18 modes of transport were incapable of handling the growing number of passengers. He said the composition of Karachi's urban product was a true index of the functional structure and a reflection on the operation of the business, household and social economy.

He said the City's activities were a mixture of the traditional and the modern. According to rough estimates, he said, about 35 per cent of all employment is in modern sub-sectors while 65 per cent remains traditional.

He said the number of registered industries in Karachi continued to increase from 50 in 1947 to about 8,000 now despite the Government's best efforts to disperse them by granting them tax-holiday if they were located outside Karachi.

He said the rapid urbanisation of Karachi has created problems of slums, poverty etc. and the physical welfare facilities could not keep pace with economic growth because of resource constraints.

He said solutions to the urban problems of Karachi were not simple like other Asian cities because million of people were living here on land that did not belong to them.

He said realising the importance of Karachi, through the joint efforts of the United Nations and the Karachi Development Authority a comprehensive Master Plan based on the economic potential of the country had been prepared.

Keeping in view the rapid urbanisation, the only remedy was immediate action for the up-gradation of the environment.

Efforts were being made to solve housing problems both by public and private sectors as the Government alone could not do it with its limited resources, he said.

REALISTIC STEPS

He said the Government took realistic steps to regularise most of the clusters having some vestige of planning and that would benefit about a million people.

The Government was aware of water shortage and a scheme was in hand for augmenting its supply. But financial strains were a hitch in undertaking new projects.

He said it could not be denied that the process of migration to the cities was irreversible and the planning process must take into account the obvious fact that many cities will be affected by this phenomenon for many years to come.

Comparing urbanisation in the developed western world and the Third World, he said it gave birth to a set of unique problems and its impact was much more than merely the physical concentration of large numbers in urban areas.

Mr Mukhtar Hussain, a Council member of the Institute of Architects of Pakistan, said the country needed more architects but deprecated the increase of schools which would "churn out misfit professionals in a large number".

It was time to reorient "our thinking about the role of the architect, and his training to make him useful for a wider cross-section of the society", he said.

He stressed the need for setting up institutions for training a new cadre of professionals who could more easily identify themselves with the people in smaller communities, rural settlements, booming townships and the urban slums without spending so much money and time. He said the services of such professionals would not be beyond the reach of those who really needed them.

There might be some criticism over introducing a new cadre of professionals not fully equipped with the technique "but it was better to have some guidance than none at all", he said.

He deplored that low salaries were offered to qualified architects by public agencies and urged the Government to realise the need for adequately trained professionals. At present there was a dearth of practising professionals and the ratio came to 1 : 1,20,000 people.

Mr Kauser Bashir Ahmed, Associate Professor, Department of Architecture, Dawood College of Engineering and Technology, Karachi, in his paper stressed the need for concerted efforts to ensure free exchange of knowledge by intensive lectures and seminars, exchange of personnel for short and long-term assignments among the institutions of architectural education and research and project oriented "live" projects.

He said time had come to form "study groups" comprising representatives from all institutions of architectural education and the professional bodies involved with architecture, planning and environment.

Later panel discussions were held on various aspects of architecture.

CSO: 4220

STEPS TO MEET FOOD NEEDS TAKEN

Karachi DAWN in English 28 Oct 80 p 9

[Text]

MULTAN, Oct 27: The Government is committed to eliminate under-nourishment and mal-nourishment in the country and provide adequate food for the growing population. This was stated by Deputy Martial Law Administrator, Multan, Major-General Raja Saroop Khan, while delivering his inaugural address on the occasion of the opening ceremony of the Service Centre for Fertility Regulation Association of Pakistan at the Fatima Jinnah Hospital here in the city.

He said that the current estimated annual production of food grains in Pakistan is 11 million tons against a needed of 12 million tons, thus Pakistan need to import one million tons of food grains every year.

He hoped that with the use of improved techniques in agriculture, the food production will continue to increase and the country will soon become self-sufficient. He said that our aim of self-sufficiency in terms of quality and quantity could only be materialised if perceptible reduction in population growth is achieved within a reasonable span of time.

Reduction in population growth, he added, will enable the country to achieve self-sufficiency in food and divert the resources already spent on the import of food grains to other developmental activities.

The DMLA while inaugurating the Service Centre said that Pakistan being one of the developing countries is faced with explosive population growth which is a well recognised and established major obstacle to economic and social progress.

In the field of health, the DMLA said that it is proposed to extend modern health cover to 50 per cent of population by the year 1981 as against the present cover of about 20 per cent of the population. This target, he added, could also be achieved only by reducing the growth rate of population in the country.

Earlier, in his address of welcome, Professor M. Hayat Zaffar, Principal of the Nishtar Medical College and Hospital, Multan, said that the Pakistan National Association for Voluntary Sterilization was established in the year 1974 and its main object was to check the alarming birth rate in the country and to look after the health of the womenfolk particularly belonging to the low-income group having a large number of children and the limited means of income which not only affected the health and economy of these families to a greater extent but was also a great hazard in the healthy growth of their children.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COST OF LIVING, CORRUPTION, CRIME EXAMINED

Karachi DAWN in English 23 Oct 80 p 5

[Article by Sultan Ahmed]

[Text] Have a rising cost of living, corruption and crime in a society any co-relation? Thinking men around the world acknowledge the co-relation and try to find remedies, even when it is easier to suggest remedies than implement them.

In Pakistan we tend to underplay the co-relation if not deny it altogether. If instead, we had acknowledged how one acts on the other and viciously aggravates their compound ill-effects we would have done something about it or tried to. At least there would have been a serious debate on the problem in a country where every day is seminar day.

The fact is that the cost of living, corruption and crime have been on the increase in the country. The impact of one on the other has been strong, and the social cost of ignoring or shutting our eyes to the problem is becoming very heavy.

Some who acknowledge the co-relation argue that Pakistan is not the only country in which the cost of living, corruption and crime have been on the increase. They are right. But that brings no consolation to the people in a country which has one of the lowest per capita income in the world in real terms, and from where there has been an enormous brain and brawn drain in quest of better prospects.

In Pakistan we have the problem of sharply rising prices. Monetary policies, fiscal philosophy, market mechanism and pricing patterns have been pushing up the prices between 20 to 30 per cent per year, depending on the expenditure group to which one belongs.

Official price indices which maintain that the price rise in Pakistan in recent years has been in an incredible single digit, and it became a double digit with 11 per cent only last year, do not hold before the harsh market realities. Those indices take into account prices of a few items, ration prices, and wholesale and retail prices that are more fictions than real.

Ostentation

In a country in which the money supply or monetary assets, as we call it, has increased by about 300 per cent in about eight years, and touched Rs. 10,000 crores,

and where the rate of domestic saving is as low as 4.5 per cent of the Gross Domestic product, how can the price rise really be in a single digit for years? The basic question is where has all this money gone if not into buying, and if accelerated buying does not increase prices what else does?

Making the impact of the rising prices more painful is our cultural pattern that demands a visible good living or ostentation. That is part of our tribal and feudal social structure which has not changed much at heart.

Additional invitation to ostentatious living comes from our commercial TV that exists to sell, if it is not preaching. If TV's sales pitch with all that song and dance and seductive visual images does not increase sales in a big way so much money would not have been spent on TV advertising with its high tariff by so many advertisers.

Money earned from the Gulf and spend in Pakistan conspicuously adds to the element of ostentation in our midst. That has increased the haves and have nots within families, and added to our social tensions. It is natural for men whose incomes shoot up suddenly to want to show some of that money as a symbol of their success and new power.

Keeping up with the Johnses has become a tough problem in Pakistan. Not only is the number of Johnses increasing fast but their variety too is expanding rapidly. And that makes the rat race an exasperating one for those who have to stay behind in Pakistan under compulsion or by choice and live on a fixed income.

Middle Income Group

Many of the persons in the middle income group or fixed income class are fighting a rear guard action to save themselves. While they cannot increase their income to have a better standard of living they have to devise means to reduce the rapid erosion of their real income because of the hyper-inflation. That fight on two fronts is enervating and frustrating. In the U.S. this struggle has led to an increase in the number of psychological cases: but we don't believe in such intangibles as our problems are more physical.

Although corruption in the ranks of the government employees has been increasing the percentage of the really corrupt is small. Similar is the case among the private sector employees. So the basic problem for the honest is that even when a man is ready to suffer and forgo many of the essential of life, not to speak of the luxuries, many of the men are not willing to nor the children. Whether the increasing demands of children are the result of TV's sales pitch for luxuries or the presence of affluent children in school, or other factors, it is becoming more and more difficult for the fixed income group to satisfy the increasing and variegated demands of the children. Tensions within the families have clearly been increasing.

In such a situation men in a powerful position, down to a patwari, can hope for, demand, and get extra payments'. Such men have to be in a position to trade favours, or penalise others, or have the means to extort money, as for example, policemen can be.

It is said of the developing countries that if they are a land of opportunity they are also nurseries of corruption. New development projects, new industries, licences, permit and sanctions are stock opportunities to make big money quick. Corruption sets in to share the quick gains.

But when some people cannot make money through corruption they take to crime, quiet crimes initially, and after that initial success demonstrative crimes. Are not our banks being robbed as much by the persons within them as much by those outside? Are not an increasing number of policemen figuring in crimes? Are not the staff of PIA, who are among the best paid of their kind in the country, figuring in the increasing smuggling and crime? Is not smuggling in the country becoming more and more massive, and what is uncovered only the top of the ice berg?

Is not the increase in forgery and impersonation alarming? Passports, foreign visas, foreign currencies, allotment papers and licences are under the systematic assault of the forgers? Even university degrees are being forged and sold. Too many of the documents which were normally taken for granted have become suspect and demand verification and waste of time. Even bank drafts have to be verified from the issuing authorities outside the city or country before payment is made. And signatures of even top most men have been forged and enormous gains made.

What do we do about such a disquieting situation? Corruption or crime is not uncommon in the developing or developed countries, but corruption without exposure, and without punishment is dangerous. And worse is corruption or crime without resistance.

Corruption and crime go together as the corrupt policemen for example, shield the criminals and both profit by it. Look at the number of highly publicised crimes and how the perpetrators of those crimes remain undetected. The fact is that a rising price level in a poor country increases crime and corruption, and both in their turn push up the prices as bribes and hush money add to the cost of production.

Vital Steps

The resistance to corruption and non-heinous crime has weakened in our society today. Instead there is a kind of sympathy for the honest and modest, or sometimes simple contempt if the man is not making use of his power or opportunities to increase his income and envy for the conspicuous success of the corrupt. When an honest man is made to seem like a weakling or a fool before his own children, and when he is regarded as such within his own larger family the situation is critical.

This weakening of moral muscle in our society under economic compulsion, this softening of the resistance to crime, and envy of the rich regardless of the means cannot create a healthy or progressive society.

No law can work in a society however efficient or honest the executive branch, without social sanction, without the overwhelming number of people supporting it. Laws framed to combat corruption and crime do not have that social sanction now in effect. Inevitably under the economic--tress and in this vastly different moral climate corruption and crime increase rapidly.

This alarming trend can be reversed only if we try hard to hold down the price level, curtail the increase in money supply, particularly by avoiding deficit financing for a while, scale down the exhibitionistic element in our life ensure fair wages for all, and deal with the corrupt firmly and promptly.

All this is an uphill task: but we have to make a beginning not through homilies and newspaper headlines but through effective and sustained action. A system that compels a man to acquire a car through unfair means simply because he cannot get a bus easily or a taxi when he wants it is seriously in the wrong. The system and the new social values are making more and more people corrupt, and corruption is feeding the monster of crime. So let us tackle the problem at its roots, at where it springs from and not where it ends or expresses itself conspicuously. The problem is real and the system is hardening. If the ice is not broken now the task will become tougher later, for sure.

CSO: 4220

LARGE UNEXPLOITED IRON ORE RESOURCES REPORTED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 27 Oct 80 p 1

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 26. Proven reserves of at least 13 million tons of good quality iron ore in Pachinkoh and Chigendak areas of District Chag, Baluchistan, are reportedly lying unexploited as no buyer is said to be willing to offer an advanced undertaking to consume the yield.

It may be recalled that extensive geo-scientific studies and drilling operation, initiated in Sept., Oct., 1974, resulted in the extraction of 13 million tons ore, containing an average of 45 per cent Fe (Iron) content in these areas.

Beneficiation and metallurgical tests had also established that the

iron ore was responsive to pelletisation and was suitable to feed Pakistan Steel Mills at Karachi.

According to experts the rich potential of high grade iron ore could meet 47 per cent of the total ore requirements of Pakistan Steel Mills blast furnace, which is planned to be fed by imported lump ore. The Baluchistan ore deposits could also be exploited to produce sponge iron and steel billets through the gaseous Direct Reduction Process.

A comprehensive scheme with an estimated cost of Rs. 57 million

was finalised to exploit the natural wealth but no final decision to implement it was possible as the advance assurance from the prospective buyers was not available.

It may also be stated here that the preliminary beneficiation carried out by PCSIR on Pachinkoh ore and the pelletising and reduction studies carried out by Japanese consulting institute showed encouraging results. PIDC had already proved reserves of 8 million tons at Pachinkoh and 5 million tons at Chigendak containing about 66 per cent iron content in some cases.

CSO: 4220

PAKISTAN

ACCORD WITH BP ON OIL HUNT IN BALUCHISTAN EXPECTED

Karachi DAWN in English 30 Oct 80 p 1

[Article by Hasan Akhtar]

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 29--Mr Masihuddin, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources, said here today that the British Petroleum and the Government hoped to sign an oil exploration agreement soon which would enable the British oil explorers to search oil in Baluchistan.

The Economic Coordination Committee of the Cabinet had today approved the proposal to allow the British Petroleum to join in oil hunt in Pakistan. It is hoped that the British firm would meet about 97 percent of its cost of oil search and the Government would contribute two and a half percent in the event of discovery of oil, the Government will be entitled to 50 percent of the profits.

Mr. Masihuddin said the plan to sink 30 oil exploratory wells during the current year was being pursued according to the schedule. This was a major step forward when compared with the average of three wells a year during the last 30 years. Pakistan is able to meet only 14 percent of its 83,000 barrels demand from indigenous oil resources. The internal oil production is, however, expected to rise to 20,000 barrels by the close of the current fiscal year. But oilwell was stated to have started yielding partly some oil since yesterday, he said.

Three rigs are also expected to arrive in Pakistan in the next month or two. Two of the rigs are due from Dubai while a German rig for Adhi drilling is also expected.

The Petroleum Secretary said that the Government were making efforts to keep the present oil import bill limited to its present size despite rise in world oil prices, by making efforts to raise internal oil production. However, the increase in petroleum products tariff, he said, had become inevitable in order to cover up the higher cost of freight and other incidental charges and to make oil available in all parts of the country at equal prices. He said that increase in oil products' prices had been on selective basis so as to spare the least income group most of the rigours of the rise in prices.

He said that prices of furnace oil and asphalt prices had not been increased since the bulk of these two items were being used for public services. Most of the furnace oil was used by railways while asphalt was used by provincial governments for road building.

CSO: 4220

ECC APPROVES RICE POLICY FOR 1980-1981

Karachi DAWN in English 30 Oct 80 pp 1, 10

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 29: The Economic Coordination Committee of the Cabinet, at a meeting held here today under the chairmanship of Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Federal Minister for Finance, Planning, Commerce and Coordination, approved the rice policy for 1980-81 and fixed the following revised procurement prices for rice of the 1980-81 crop:

Basmati Faq Rs 137 per 40 kg.
Irri-6 superior (15 per cent broken) Rs 72 per 40 kg.

Irri-6 Faq (40 per cent broken) Rs 63 per 40 kg.

The ECC also reviewed the position of supply and prices of various categories of meat in the country. The committee was informed that a number of projects are under implementation to increase the production of meat and fish. These include:

(i) 90 artificial insemination centres have been established in Punjab to improve genetic potential of livestock. The resultant progeny is fast growing and early maturing. Similar programmes have been initiated in Sind, NWFP and Baluchistan for increased production of meat and milk.

(ii) UNDP-assisted livestock development centre, Bahadur Nagar, Punjab, (total cost of Rs 31.660 million) has encouraged livestock production.

(iii) Punjab livestock development project, Sheikhupura, with the assistance of World Bank envisages to organise farmers into village livestock association and provide them with essential services like livestock health control, artificial insemination and advice on breeding, feeding and management practices.

(iv) Livestock development project, Baluchistan, aims at augmenting the sheep and goat production and kid lamb fattening under an agreement signed with Asian Development Bank and EEC.

(v) Livestock development project in NWFP is being implemented with assistance from Netherlands Government at a total cost of Rs 5.4 million. The project envisages to strengthen veterinary research and cross-breeding of indigenous cattle.

POULTRY, FISH

(vi) Coordinated national programme for the development of rural poultry was initiated in 1975-76 at a total cost of Rs 89.31 million in all provinces and Azad Kashmir. It provides for control of diseases, improved nutrition, breeding and management practices and establishment of demonstration centres and disease diagnostic laboratories.

(vii) Poultry Research Institute, Karachi, established with UNDP assistance in 1973-75 (total cost Rs 39.53 million) conducts research on various aspects of poultry production, provides training facilities to workers and farmers and supplies improved flocks and breeding stock of suitable breeds. A similar poultry research institute is now being established at Rawalpindi.

(viii) Marine fisheries development projects has been approved at a total cost of Rs 23.947 million and is being assisted by FAO/UNDP.

(ix) Pakistan agriculture development project is being implemented at a total cost of Rs 221 million with Asian Development Bank assistance. In five years it is expected to increase fish production by about 78,000 tons annually.

The committee directed that livestock development should receive greater attention from federal and Provincial Governments. It also approved a package of measures designed to increase production and supply of meat in the country.

VEGETABLES, COTTON

The question of providing incentives for increasing production of green vegetables also came up for consideration. It was brought to the attention of the committee that due to various economic factors, the production of green vegetables has been decreasing. On the other hand, some vegetables which are grown surplus to requirements perish for want of marketing. The committee noted that there is a potential export market for surplus green vegetable which will also provide incentives for growing green vegetable farms on scientific lines.

The ECC reviewed the implementation of the cotton policy and directed that the Cotton Export Corporation and the provincial governments should keep a close watch on the market, in order to ensure payment of support price of seed cotton to the farmers.

OIL AND GAS

The ECC approved a joint venture agreement between Petroleum Development Limited, a subsidiary of the British Petroleum Company Limited of UK and the Oil and Gas Development Corporation of Pakistan, for grant of petroleum exploration and production rights covering approximately 3,400 sq miles in districts Sibi,

Kalat, Kutchi, Khuzdar and Khlu Agency in Baluchistan and district Larkana in Sind.

The ECC decided to ratify a trade agreement concluded between Pakistan and Senegal in February, this year. The trade agreement provides among other things, Most Favoured Nation Treatment to the contracting parties and is designed to increase trade between the two countries.

The ECC approved proposals for expansion of urea fertilizer manufacturing plant of Messrs Dawood Hercules Chemical Limited from 0.345 million tons to 0.600 million tons of Simplex Rubber Manufacturers Limited for manufacture of motorcycle tyres and tubes and that of Pakistan Cables Limited for manufacturing 0.4 million meters of 11 KV cross-linked polyethylene cables.

The committee also approved two new projects for setting up a jute mill and a plant for manufacture of sunglass lenses in private sector.

The meeting was attended by Ministers for Housing and Works and Water and Power, Food and Agriculture and cooperatives, and communications, Governor of State Bank of Pakistan, Cabinet Secretary, and secretaries of economic ministries.—APP

LIVESTOCK A DYING INDUSTRY

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 29 Oct 80 p 6

[Editorial]

[Text]

THE livestock industry in the Punjab, the main source of providing animal protein to the people, continues to be neglected by policy-makers and if timely action is not taken, it may collapse altogether.

No incentives have been offered to encourage this industry. Little wonder, then, that the industry should be as capital-starved as it is today. The prices of fodder, barley and oats have gone up higher than those of wheat. A few years back, the prices of fodder and other animal feeds were much lower than those of wheat.

According to a survey carried out by 'The Muslim', about 90 per cent of the people engaged in livestock industry do not own any land of their own. Therefore, they are offered no credit by the banks because they have no guarantees to offer. Farmers who get loans from the banks utilise them for enhancing their wheat, rice and cotton production which offers them higher returns than cattle breeding.

It is an acknowledged fact that all major developed countries of the world get 70 to 80 per cent of their food out of animals in the shape of milk, mutton, butter and cheese and they use cereals in very little quantity. The position is quite the reverse in developing countries such as Pakistan. Here the people eat more bread and less protein-rich food which results in grave malnutrition. Our work-force is lethargic because it is malnourished.

The private sector could help improve the situation if big land-owners came forward in a big way and invested in the livestock industry on scientific lines.

The authorities have fixed the prices of mutton and beef but the question is of availability. Milk is

generally adulterated. Even so it is selling at the rate of Rs. 4 per litre. Water is added to the milk by the middlemen who are minting money by indulging in this grave crime against society virtually unchecked.

According to cattle breeders, price controls could only be effective if the prices of fodder, barley, cottonseed cakes, coats and other animal feeds were also controlled. Said one livestock expert: "wheat is selling at Rs.50 to 55 per maund while fodder is fetching any thing between Rs.60 to 80. How do you expect to get your leg of mutton at 15 rupees to the kilo? You cannot control end-product prices while input costs keep escalating like mad all around you". This, he added, was cruel to the animals also many of whom were being underfed because their owners couldn't pay exorbitant feed prices.

Another reason why the livestock industry is not developing quickly is that people who have acquired land from the Government for cattle breeding, have brought it under wheat, cotton and rice and other crops which bring in quick returns. Why bother about breeding rams or sheep or cows or buffaloes? The Government could

do well to take stringent action against such people. They should be asked either to use the land for breeding cattle or resume it and give it to those who would undertake to do honest livestock farming.

According to an estimate, 10,000 sheep and goats are sold in the city on which octroi duty is also paid. Out of these, only 4,000 are slaughtered officially while the rest are butchered privately. This illegal business has been going on for several months now. Surprise raids have been conducted

at butcher's shops but no action has been taken against persons who sell mutton at their residence very early in the morning.

MILK IMPORT

Figures show that dried milk worth Rs. 400 million is imported every year. If the livestock industry is run on scientific lines the amount spent on import of milk could be drastically reduced. It is learnt that the prices of dried milk have again shot up in the international market. Naturally, therefore, Pakistan's import bill for milk will rise proportionately. As one expert put it, if the livestock industry could get an additional investment of Rs. 400 million, it would make the country not only self-sufficient in food but also help reduce the animal portion shortage to a considerable extent.

There has been no improvement in cattle production since 1960. Animals are getting only 50 per cent feed because private owners do not have the resources to meet their full requirements which is resulting in an increased slaughter of immature animals plus rise in the incidence of cattle morbidity.

One reason for this is that veterinary doctors have had a raw deal since independence. Before partition, they were paid as well as N.B., B.S. doctors. Today while an ordinary general physician especially in private practice does well even a specialist veterinary doctor is grossly underpaid.

There, then, are a few of the factors that have led the livestock industry close to disaster point and unless remedial action is taken on an emergency basis, the nation could face an animal protein famine of gigantic proportions. And for as long as the present conditions persist, one should content with recurring shortages and high prices.

GOVERNMENT REVENUE INCREASE REPORTED

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 28 Oct 80 p 10

[Article by George T. Nervez]

[Text] National government revenues, in the form of taxes and customs duties from January to September 1980 amounted to P25.7 billion, an improvement of 15.8 percent of P3.5 billion over the same period in 1979.

However, the national government incurred a deficit in its cash operations during the period amounting to P1.9 billion because expenses exceeded collections, the bureau of the treasury reported yesterday.

The treasury showed that from January to September 1980, government expenditures amounted to P27.5 billion, up by P5.5 billion or 24.83 percent compared to P22.07 billion expenses reported in the same period in 1979.

As a result of the financial gap, the national government resorted to a net borrowing of P3.45 billion from domestic and foreign sources, the bureau said.

During the period, government revenues improved because the bureau of internal revenue and customs collected a total of P20.38 billion, up by 12.54 percent over collections from January to September 1980.

Major sources of revenues, the bureau said, were taxes on net income and profits P6.6 billion, taxes on goods and services--P5.9 billion, import duties--P4.04 billion, license and business taxes--P1.6 billion, and others--P5.9 billion.

On the other hand, the bulk of expenses went to current operating costs which rose to P15.78 billion, an increase of P4.75 billion or 43.05 percent over the year ago level of P11.03 billion.

The government also spent P6.25 billion for capital outlays from January to September 1980. This was P1.09 billion or 21.23 percent more than the amount spent for this purpose in the same period last year, the bureau said.

A big slice of capital outlays amounting to P5.96 billion was used to finance infrastructure projects. For the capitalization of government corporation, in the form of equity contributions and subsidies, it spent a total of P3.97 billion, up by P151.6 million or 17.29 percent compared to expenses for this purpose in 1979.

During the period, the government paid P1.6 billion for interest expenses, and P856.85 million for amortization.

The bureau also said that the national government borrowed a total of P12.43 billion during the period, but P8.565 million was used to retire government securities which matured while P416.36 million was spent for external loans.

The unspent portion of P3.45 billion was added to the national government's cash balance, the bureau said.

CSO: 4220

PHILIPPINES

GUARANTEE ARRANGEMENTS ESTABLISHED WITH MIDDLE EAST BANKS

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 28 Oct 80 p 10

[Text] The Philippine Export and Foreign Loan Guarantee Corp. (Philguarantee) has established guarantee arrangements with 20 Middle East banks to service the requirements of Filipino overseas contractors.

These banks have made available about \$50 million to Filipino contractors in various accommodations, according to Rosendo Bondoc, Philguarantee president.

Among these banks are Al-UBAF Group; Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait; K.S.C.; Arab International Bank; Arab-Malaysian Development Bank; Banque Arabe et Internationale d'Investissement (B.A.I.I.); Banque de Caire; Burgan Bank S.A.K.; Kuwait Foreign Trading Contracting & Investment Co.; Mellon Bank NA, National Bank of Abu Dhabi, National Commercial Bank of Saudi Arabia; Qatar National Bank S.A.Q., Riyadh Bank Ltd., UBAN-Arab Japanese Finance Ltd.; Union de Banques Arabes et Francaises-U.B.A.F.; and Wardley Middle East Ltd.

Philguarantee, Bondoc said, has secured the approval in principle for the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency for the Philippines to carry out a savings bond program to be sold to Filipino workers and technicians in Saudi Arabia.

The project was also approved in principle by Central Bank Gov. Gregorio Licaros who visited Jeddah last month. This is considered the first savings bond issue ever in the Middle East.

According to Bondoc, it will initially issue \$50 million to be sold to 120,000 Filipino workers and will be undertaken by Saudi Banks. The proceeds will be used for the housing program of the Ministry of Human Settlements.

Bondoc said about 120,000 workers in Saudi earn an average of \$60 million a month or \$720 million annually. Philguarantee aims to tap about \$30 million a month that are kept by the workers for the savings bond program.

Bondoc is leaving for Arabia this week with officials from the CB and the Home Financing Corp. to finalize the bond program.

CSO: 4220

PHILIPPINES

BRIEFS

ECGD GUARANTEES NEA LOAN--London, Oct. 28--The British government's Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) has guaranteed the repayment and funding of a \$16 million loan granted by Lloyds Bank International Ltd. to the National Electrification Administration (NEA) of the Philippines, it was announced. The ECGD said the loan will help finance an 8.5 million sterling pounds contract awarded to Balfour Beatty Engineering Ltd. by the NEA. Under the contract, Balfour Beatty will be responsible for the design, supply, installation and commissioning of six wood-fired electricity generating stations. Commissioning is scheduled for the end of 1982. Further finance for the contract is being provided in the form of aid within the UK's official aid program. [Text] [Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 29 Oct 80 p 9]

CSO: 4220

CASE AGAINST BANDARANAIKE REVIEWED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 16 Oct 80 p 8

[Article by Selvam Canagaratna]

[Text] Mrs. Bandaranaike, former Prime Minister, and her Sri Lanka Freedom Party appear to have got some political advantage from a telephone conversation which the SLFP leader had with Mrs Gandhi recently. The latter told Mrs Bandaranaike that she won the Indian general election held early this year well before the voting, in fact on the day the Janata Government decided to send her to jail. In publicizing that personal and private talk Mrs Bandaranaike is only reinforcing a common Sri Lanka belief, one which the ruling United National Party had itself exploited with telling effect during the 1977 general election campaign. [as published] "Yesterday India, Tomorrow Sri Lanka" was the cry then the thinly-veiled allusion being to Mrs Gandhi's electoral defeat in 1977 and the consequent political debacle which awaited her a few months later that year.

Mrs Bandaranaike was last month found guilty of misuse and abuse of power during her seven-year term as Prime Minister which ended in July 1977. Her nephew, Mr Felix Dias Bandaranaike, who held the important portfolios of Finance, Justice and Local Government in her Cabinet, was found guilty of abuse of power and of corruption. The Special Presidential Commission, which investigated the charges against them, was made up of two Supreme Court judges and one Appeal Court judge. Mrs Bandaranaike appeared before it on the day the case against her was taken up, read a lengthy prepared statement to the effect that she could not expect justice from it as it had been appointed by her main political opponent who was also the accuser, and withdrew from the proceedings. Earlier she had told Parliament, when the Bill to set up the Commission was being debated that she would accept it provided that Supreme Court judges were appointed to it.

The Government has announced its intention to move a resolution when Parliament meets on October 16 to deprive both leaders of their civic rights for seven years, as recommended by the Commission. The Sri Lanka Freedom Party has, however, chosen to focus attention both in Sri Lanka and abroad, only on her case in its campaign to thwart the Government's move. Its reason for this--or rather the one offered for public consumption--is that, unlike Mrs Bandaranaike, her nephew had been found guilty also of corruption.

When in power Mr Felix Bandaranaike's arrogant manner had alienated a substantial section of the party rank and file, to say nothing of the public at large.

Right now he has become very much of a political liability to her aunt and to the party. [as published] By off-loading him at this juncture, party strategists feel that it would be easier to convince the masses that the real intention of President Jayewardene's Government in establishing the Special Commission was to remove Mrs Bandaranaike from the political scene and thus ensure his party's return in the 1983 general election, besides ensuring his own victory in the presidential election due a year later should he decide to run for a second term.

The official party line is that the move to deprive its leader of her civic rights is indeed symbolic of the capitalist UNP's grand design to rob the people of their civic, economic and political rights.

The Government for its part has so far done very little to clear the air of suspicion created by the SLFP's open accusation that its intentions are partisan and not altogether honourable. [as published] Political columnists of State-controlled newspapers keep reiterating that the Government is motivated purely by an almost missionary zeal to cleanse the Augean stables of public life and make examples of all wrongdoers, regardless of whether those involved were big fish or small fry. Credibility on that score, however, has been seriously eroded by public knowledge, and even oblique official admissions, of just how rampant bribery and corruption have become over the past three years. As SLFP spokesmen point out with obvious glee, the misdeeds of their party's seven-year rule pale into insignificance by comparison.

The Special Presidential Commission's term of office has been extended for another year, until September 28, 1981. At the time the Commission was set up to investigate the alleged misdeeds of the former Government President Jayewardene had said that a similar commission would be empowered to inquire into any allegations of misconduct against members of his own Government. The extension will enable the Commission's warrant to cover the three years of UNP rule.

The political columnist of the only independently-owned national newspaper, the Sun, recently revealed that, in considering whether or not to deprive Mrs Bandaranaike of her civic rights, the Cabinet was told that it was the credibility of the Government that was at stake and that having already stripped the SLFP's Justice Ministry Secretary, Mr Nihal Jayawickrema, of his civic rights on the recommendations of the Commission, the Government had little choice when it came to dealing with the SLFP leader. However supporters of the ruling party are known to have communicated to the party high command their grave reservations about the political wisdom of the Government's move.

Party loyalty and principle aside, several UNP activists argue that the decision to deprive Mrs Bandaranaike of her civic rights has come two years too late. They feel that, had the decision come in 1978, the Government would have had popular support, but not any longer. The UNP won 51% of the votes cast in July, 1977 compared with the SLFP's 30. (The UNP has 144 seats and the SLFP 7 in the 168-member House.)

This line of reasoning appears to have the virtue of political commonsense to commend it. People with no strong party affiliations appear to be willing to concede that, rightly or otherwise, time has turned the case against the former

Prime Minister's alleged political excesses into very much of an emotional issue. Mrs Bandaranaike herself is on record as saying that "the case of Bandaranaike vs the UNP" will ultimately be decided not by a Special Commission or even by the UNP's steamroller majority in Parliament on October 16, but by the people in 1983. It is indeed ironical that President Jayewardene's Government should find itself in this situation. Had it rushed the proceedings or even appeared to do so, the UNP would certainly have been accused of wanting to suppress its main political opposition and, with it, the basis of parliamentary democracy.

For the Government to back down now would be tantamount to handing political victory on a platter to Mrs Bandaranaike. But to go through with its decision would also involve the risk of building up Mrs Bandaranaike's image in the very process of making a political non-person of her. And of course there is the emotional impact of Mrs Gandhi's reassuring words to her only the other day. In the coming weeks and months we are about to witness the making of a martyr, and the UNP will have to take the credit for it.

(This article was written before the declaration of a state of emergency in Sri Lanka.)

CSO: 4220

LAW BARS BANDARANAIKE FROM POLITICS

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 19 Oct 80 pp 1, 7

[Text]

COLOMBO, Oct. 18.—A law seeking to eliminate totally the former Prime Minister, Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike from parliamentary politics was adopted by the Sri Lanka Parliament by a two-thirds majority yesterday, less than 24 hours after she had been expelled from the House and deprived of civic rights, reports UNL.

The new law barred persons who had lost their civic rights from taking any part in the electoral process, including campaigning for any person or party.

The relevant provision was introduced in the Bill—The Presidential Elections Special Provisions Bill—in the form of an amendment at the committee stage, the Prime Minister, Mr Ranasinghe Premadasa, told the House.

The leader of the Opposition, Mr A. Amirthalingam (Tamil United Liberation Front), opposing the amendment, criticized the Prime Minister for having sought to enlarge the disabilities of those who had already lost their civic rights on the recommendations of the Special Presidential Commission. Another Opposition member said the amendment was designed to harass political opponents.

Mr Premadasa, in his reply, said the ruling United National Party was prepared to go to the people on the question of civic disabilities.

Three other Bills, the Presidential Elections Bill, the Parliamentary Elections Bill and the Referendum Bill, were also passed by the House.

The Government's move came as a surprise to the Opposition. Mrs Bandaranaike's son, Mr Anura Bandaranaike, M.P., said the amendments came "sooner than we had anticipated."

Contravention of the enlarged disabilities is punishable with fine of Rs 1,000 or imprisonment for six months or both after "summary trial" and conviction by a "magistrate".

The next general elections to be held on the basis of proportional representation system or the "list" system are due in July 1983 and direct election for the office of President is due in February 1984. Political observers are inclined to think that Mrs Bandaranaike would not be able to return to the House or contest presidential elections till 1990.

Mr Premadasa had made it clear in the House on Thursday that even if the Supreme Court quashed the findings of the special Presidential Commission, on whose

recommendations Mrs Bandaranaike was stripped of civic rights and expelled, her rights would not be restored by repealing the resolutions the House passed that day.

Mr Premadasa said this after the Minister of State, Mr Anandadasa de Alwis, stated that the resolutions would be repealed if the Supreme Court set aside the findings of the commission.

This is interpreted in political circles as indicative of sharp divergence of views on the question within the United National Party. The weekly, Nation, has for some time now been highlighting what it calls "intra-party power struggle between President Jayewardene and Prime Minister Premadasa".

Having eliminated Mrs Bandaranaike, the President may have to reckon with a challenge to his leadership from Mr Mr Premadasa within the party.

The jettisoning of the Industries and Scientific Affairs Minister, Mr Mathew, from the leadership of the UNP-controlled Jathika Seva Sangamaya trade union and forced resignations of a couple of the President's ardent supporters from public offices they held, are cited as indications of the power struggle between the President and the Prime Minister.

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